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THE
CONSTITUTION AND POLITY
OF THE
WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH



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THE
CONSTITUTION AND POLITY
OF THE
WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH

ON THE PLAN OF THE WORK

BY THE LATE

HENRY W. WILLIAMS, D.D.

A NEW AND ENLARGED EDITION

BROUGHT DOWN TO THE CONFERENCE OF 1898

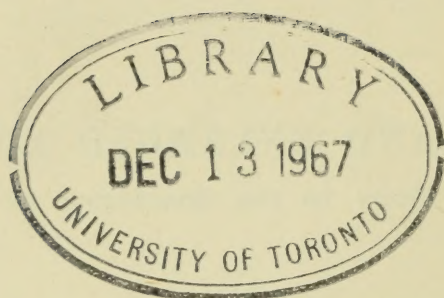
BY

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Conference, 1895*

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PREFACE

At the request of the Wesleyan Methodist *Book Committee*, the responsible duty was undertaken by me of preparing a new edition of the *Constitution and Polity of Wesleyan Methodism*. The original design of the work was to present a clear, concise, and complete statement of the Economy of Wesleyan Methodism in the stage of development which it had then reached. The task was executed with distinguished ability by the late Rev. Henry W. Williams, D.D. The volume proved of great service, not only to Ministers and Office-bearers, but also to private Members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church. It passed through several editions, the last being published in the year 1882. The book—now out of print—is still in demand, but it was essential that any future edition should include the legislation of succeeding Conferences. Since 1882 a great deal of new and important legislation has been enacted, and the Resolutions of the Conference adopted in successive years have modified, and in some instances superseded, the preceding Regulations.

The present volume has been prepared on the excellent plan adopted by Dr. Williams, but it has been almost entirely rewritten, and consists of nearly twice the number of pages. The historic accounts in reference to the Conference, District Synods, Circuit Quarterly Meetings, Leaders' Meetings, and the statements with regard to the several Connexional Funds, have been, as far as practicable, retained, but the identical words of the Resolutions of the Conference have, as a rule, been supplied, or

references have been given by which those statements may be verified. Wesley's Deed Poll, the "Form of Discipline," "Resolutions on Pastoral Work," and other leading Resolutions of the Conference which are of permanent value, have been printed *in extenso*. The Chapel Committee having kindly given its consent, the "Chapel Model Deed" is printed in full. This, it is believed, will be of great convenience to both Ministers and Trustees.

The object, as will be seen, has been to make this new edition a complete Handbook of Wesleyan Methodism. A principal feature of the work is that the legislation and Rules are brought together and placed in order in connexion with each subject and Department of Methodism, and by consulting the carefully prepared Index it will be easy to find the Regulations of the Conference on any particular subject.

The Editor gratefully acknowledges the assistance rendered by the Departmental Secretaries, and his indebtedness to the several works on Methodist legislation, especially to the Rev. Charles E. Wansbrough's *Handbook and Index of the Minutes of the Conference*, and the Rev. John S. Simon's *Summary of Methodist Law and Discipline*.

The edition of the *Minutes of the Conference* referred to is that which is usually termed the *new* octavo edition, vols. i. to xxi., and the volumes which have been issued annually since the year 1879. The term "District Synod" has been substituted for that of "District Committee," except in the Historic Documents contained in the Appendices. The word *Minutes* is not printed before each reference, but is inserted when it forms part of a Resolution, or is required for the sake of clearness.

DAVID J. WALLER.

WESLEYAN TRAINING COLLEGE,
WESTMINSTER, S.W.

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THE WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH

TITLE OF THE CONNEXION

THE Conference of 1891 declared that the term “The Wesleyan Methodist Church” describes our true and proper position as a New Testament Church, and resolved as follows :—

“Having regard to the terms used in our Trust-Deeds and other Legal Documents, it is not possible for the Conference to alter the title of the Connexion as it appears on the front page of the *Minutes of Conference*. The Conference declares, however, that the title hitherto used is not, and never has been, inconsistent with the assertion for ‘the people called Methodists’ of a true and proper position as a Church, with all the authorities, privileges, and responsibilities belonging to the New Testament Church ; and in this view of our principles and of the facts of the case, the Conference, so far from discouraging, distinctly approves of the general and popular use of the term, ‘The Wesleyan Methodist Church’” (*Minutes*, 1891, p. 321).

PART I

THE WESLEYAN METHODIST SOCIETIES

CHAPTER I

ORIGIN OF THE SOCIETIES—FUNDAMENTAL RULES OF THE SOCIETIES—CLASS MEETINGS—BAND MEETINGS—SOCIETY MEETINGS—THE COVENANT-SERVICE.

ORIGIN OF THE METHODIST SOCIETIES.

THE origin of the Methodist Societies is set forth in *A Plain Account of People called Methodists*, written by the Rev. John Wesley in the year 1748, in which he says :

About ten years ago, my brother and I were desired to preach in many parts of London. We had no view therein, but, so far as we were able (and we knew God could work by whomsoever it pleased Him), to convince those who would hear what true Christianity was, and to persuade them to embrace it.

The points we chiefly insisted upon were four : First, that orthodoxy, or right opinions, is, at least, but a very slender part of religion, if it can be allowed to be any part of it at all ; that neither does religion consist in negatives, in bare harmlessness of any kind, nor merely in externals, in doing good, or using the means of grace, in works of piety (so called) or of charity ; that it is nothing short of, or different from, “the mind that was in Christ” ; the image of God stamped upon the heart ; inward righteousness, attended with the peace of God, and “joy in the Holy Ghost.” Secondly, that the only way under heaven to this religion is, to “repent and believe the Gospel” ; or (as the Apostle words it), “repentance towards

God, and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ." Thirdly, that by this faith, "he that worketh not, but believeth on Him that justifieth the ungodly, is justified freely by His grace, through the redemption which is in Jesus Christ." And, lastly, that "being justified by faith," we taste of the heaven to which we are going; we are holy and happy; we tread down sin and fear, and "sit in heavenly places with Christ Jesus."

Many of those who heard this began to cry out that we brought "strange things to their ears"; that this was doctrine which they never heard before, or at least never regarded. They "searched the Scriptures, whether these things were so," and acknowledged "the truth as it is in Jesus." Their hearts also were influenced, as well as their understandings, and they determined to follow "Jesus Christ, and Him crucified."

Immediately they were surrounded with difficulties; all the world rose up against them.

One and another and another came to us, asking what they should do, being distressed on every side, as everyone strove to weaken, and none to strengthen their hands in God. We advised them: "Strengthen you one another; talk together as often as you can; and pray earnestly with and for one another, that you may 'endure to the end and be saved.'" Against this advice we presumed there could be no objection, as being grounded on the plainest reason and on so many scriptures, both of the Old Testament and New, that it would be tedious to recite them.

They said: "But we want you likewise to talk with us often; to direct and quicken us in our way; to give us the advices which you well know we need; and to pray with us as well as for us." I asked: "Which of you desire this? Let me know your names and places of abode." They did so; but I soon found that they were too many for me to talk with severally so often as they wanted it. So I told them: "If you will all of you come together every Thursday, in the evening, I will gladly spend some time with you in prayer, and give you the best advice I can."

Thus arose, without any previous design on either side, what was afterwards called a Society. . . . The thing proposed in their associating themselves together was obvious to everyone. They wanted to "flee from the wrath to come," and to assist each other in so doing. They therefore united themselves "in order to pray together, to receive the word of exhortation, and to watch over one another in love; that they might help each other to work out their salvation."

There is one only condition previously required in those who desire admission into this Society—"a desire to flee from the wrath to come, to be saved from their sins."

It quickly appeared that their thus uniting together answered

the end proposed therein. . . . The far greater part of those who were thus united together continued "striving to enter in at the strait gate," and to "lay hold on eternal life."

Upon reflection, I could not but observe, This is the very thing which was from the beginning of Christianity (*Works*, vol. viii. pp. 248-250, third edition).

FUNDAMENTAL RULES OF THE WESLEYAN METHODIST SOCIETIES.

The fundamental Rules of the Wesleyan Methodist Societies are those published by the Rev. John Wesley in the year 1743 under the title, *The Nature, Design, and General Rules of the United Societies in London, Bristol, Kingswood, and Newcastle-upon-Tyne.*

They are as follows :—

1. In the latter end of the year 1739, eight or ten persons came to me in London, who appeared to be deeply convinced of sin, and earnestly groaning for redemption. They desired (as did two or three more the next day) that I would spend some time with them in prayer, and advise them how to flee from the wrath to come, which they saw continually hanging over their heads. That we might have more time for this great work, I appointed a day when they might all come together ; which, from thenceforward, they did every week, viz. on Thursday in the evening. To these, and as many more as desired to join with them (for their number increased daily), I gave those advices from time to time which I judged most needful for them ; and we always concluded our meetings with prayer suitable to their several necessities.

2. This was the rise of the UNITED SOCIETY, first in *London*, and then in other places. Such a Society is no other than "*a company of men having the form, and seeking the power, of godliness ; united in order to pray together, to receive the word of exhortation, and to watch over one another in love, that they may help each other to work out their salvation.*"

3. That it may the more easily be discerned whether they are indeed working out their own salvation, each Society is divided into smaller companies, called *Classes*, according to their respective places of abode. There are about twelve persons in every *Class* ; one of whom is styled *the Leader*. It is his business,

(1) To see each person in his *Class* once a week, at least, in order

To inquire how their souls prosper ;

To advise, reprove, comfort, or exhort, as occasion may require ;
To receive what they are willing to give towards the support of the Gospel.

(2) To meet the Ministers and the Stewards of the Society once a week, in order

To inform the Minister of any that are sick, or of any that walk disorderly, and will not be reprov'd ;

To pay to the Stewards what they have received of their several Classes in the week preceding ; and

To show their account of what each person has contributed.

4. There is one only condition previously required of those who desire admission into these Societies, namely "*a desire to flee from the wrath to come, and be saved from their sins.*" But wherever this is really fixed in the soul, it will be shown by its fruits. It is therefore expected of all who continue therein, that they should continue to evidence their desire of salvation,

First, By doing no harm, by avoiding evil in every kind ; especially that which is most generally practised. Such as

The taking the name of God in vain :

The profaning the day of the Lord, either by doing ordinary work thereon, or by buying or selling :

Drunkenness ; *buying or selling spirituous liquors ; or drinking them*, unless in cases of extreme necessity :

Fighting, quarrelling, brawling ; brother going to law with brother ; returning evil for evil, or railing for railing ; the using many words in buying or selling :

The *buying or selling uncustomed goods :*

The *giving or taking things on usury*, namely, unlawful interest :

Uncharitable or unprofitable conversation ; particularly speaking evil of Magistrates, or of Ministers :

Doing to others as we would not they should do unto us :

Doing what we know is not for the glory of God ; as,

The *putting on of gold and costly apparel ;*

The *taking such diversions* as cannot be used in the name of the Lord Jesus ;

The *singing those songs, or reading those books*, which do not tend to the knowledge or love of God :

Softness, and needless self-indulgence :

Laying up treasure upon earth :

Borrowing without a probability of paying ; or taking up goods without a probability of paying for them.

5. It is expected of all who continue in these Societies, that they should continue to evidence their desire of salvation,

Secondly, By doing good, by being in every kind merciful after their power, as they have opportunity ; doing good of every possible sort, and as far as is possible to all men :

To their bodies, of the ability that God giveth, by giving food to the hungry, by clothing the naked, by helping or visiting them that are sick, or in prison :

To their souls, by instructing, *reproving*, or exhorting all we have any intercourse with ; trampling under foot that enthusiastic doctrine of devils, that, “ we are not to do good, unless *our hearts be free to it.*”

By doing good, especially to them that are of the household of faith, or groaning so to be ; employing them preferably to others, buying one of another, helping each other in business ; and so much the more, because the world will love its own, and them *only.*

By all possible *diligence* and *frugality*, that the Gospel be not blamed.

By running with patience the race that is set before them, *denying themselves, and taking up their cross daily* ; submitting to bear the reproach of Christ ; to be as the filth and offscouring of the world ; and looking that men should *say all manner of evil of them falsely, for the Lord's sake.*

6. It is expected of all who desire to continue in these Societies, that they should continue to evidence their desire of salvation.

Thirdly, By attending upon all the ordinances of God : such are

The public worship of God ;

The ministry of the word, either read or expounded ;

The supper of the Lord ;

Family and private prayer ;

Searching the Scriptures ; and

Fasting or abstinence.

7. These are the General Rules of our Societies ; all which we are taught of God to observe, even in His written Word,—the only rule, and the sufficient rule, both of our faith and practice. And all these we know His Spirit writes on every truly awakened heart. If there be any among us who observe them not, who habitually break any of them, let it be made known unto them who watch over that soul as they that must give an account. We will admonish him of the error of his ways : we will bear with him for a season. But then, if he repent not, he hath no more place among us. We have delivered our own souls.

JOHN WESLEY,
CHARLES WESLEY.

May 1, 1743.

These Rules, while they were suited to the form which Methodism originally assumed, are suited also to its present

position as a distinct and complete Church organisation. They enforce the religious exercises which are essential to a true Christian profession. All Members of the Methodist Society are to avow their faith in Christ and their submission to His authority by the observance of the means of grace which He has appointed. It is presumed that they have already been baptized in the Name of the Holy Trinity; and they are called upon to confess Christ by partaking of the Sacrament of His Supper, and to hold forth His truth to the world in the public ordinances of religion.

CLASS MEETINGS.

In these Rules the origin of *Class Meetings* is stated; and it is implied that all the members of "The United Society" belong to these Classes. The Class Meeting stands prominent among the social means of grace provided in the Economy of Methodism; and it has proved an inestimable blessing to thousands. Every Class is met by one of the Ministers of the Circuit to which it belongs, once a quarter, for the renewal of their tickets of Church membership; and it is an instruction of the Conference to the Superintendents of Circuits, "so to arrange the plan for the quarterly public visitation of the Classes, as to allow full time for a more minute examination into the Christian knowledge, experience, and practice of the Members, and for pastoral inquiries, instructions, and counsels, respecting personal and family religion" (1820, vol. v. p. 149).

On various occasions the Conference has expressed its deep conviction that Class Meetings are essential to Methodism, and has enforced the necessity of maintaining them in unimpaired efficiency. The following is a Minute bearing on this subject, adopted in 1855, as one of a series of Resolutions on the Spiritual state of the work of God in the Connexion at home:—

"The Conference cherishes an ever deepening conviction of

the value of that spiritual fellowship with each other which our people have been wont to maintain in a regular attendance on our Class Meetings ; believing that in this course the Members of our Societies, of all ages, and all varieties of knowledge, position, and attainment, are best enabled to walk comfortably with God, to nourish that simple and ardent piety which is their only safeguard against the dangers and seductions of the age, to train up spiritually-minded Office-Bearers for future service, and to prepare to render up their final account with joy. The Conference, therefore, exhorts all our Ministers to watch over our Class Meetings with holy jealousy, and to use every effort to maintain them strictly in all their efficiency, directing both their public instructions and their private pastoral influence toward this object with unceasing diligence " (1855, vol. xiii. p. 110).

The importance of the Class Meeting as a means of grace, its peculiar position in Methodism, and its relation to all parts of the Methodist Economy, is set forth in a *Report of the Committee on Church Membership, having special reference to the Class Meeting*, adopted by the Conference of 1889 (1889, pp. 404-413).

BAND MEETINGS.

Mr. Wesley strongly encouraged the formation of Band Meetings for closer fellowship among his people. These were associations of three or four known to be earnest Christians, the special object of whose intercourse was to obey the injunction, "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed." No Band Meeting was to be held without the approbation of the Superintendent (1806, vol. ii. p. 348). In addition to the Weekly Meeting of each of these private Bands, all the Members of them met together every week in what were termed "the Public Bands," presided over by one of the Ministers of the Circuit, for the relation

of Christian experience and for mutual encouragement (1813, vol. iii. pp. 292 and 387).

SOCIETY MEETINGS.

The system of Methodism embraces also *Society Meetings*. These were originally held at the close of the public worship on the evening of every Lord's day; and the Conference has strongly advised that this practice should, as a rule, be still observed (1836, vol. viii. p. 86). Society Meetings afford an opportunity to the Ministers of familiarly and affectionately enforcing the duties of the Christian profession, as well as of addressing to their people special exhortations adapted to the particular state of the Societies in question. The Conference has directed also, that in country places, which are seldom visited by the Ministers on the Lord's day, the Societies should be frequently met on the week-day evenings (1820, vol. v. p. 149; 1836, vol. viii. p. 86). At every alternate meeting strangers are allowed to be present. *Special Society Meetings* are also recommended. Among the *Minutes* adopted in 1836 there is the following:—

“In addition to the practice of meeting the Societies weekly on the evening of the Lord's day, the Conference recommends that the Preachers should appoint times, whether once in a month or once in a quarter, for holding Special Society Meetings, either on the afternoon of the Sabbath, or on some evening of the week, to be devoted exclusively to that purpose; when, if practicable, all the Preachers of the Circuit should be present, and unite in endeavouring to make such Special Society Meetings instructive and useful to our people” (1836, vol. viii. p. 87).

LOVEFEASTS.

Among the social means of grace we must mention also *Love-feasts*, at which the Members of a particular Society, or of several Societies, meet together to speak of Christian experi-

ence. In relation to these, it is provided that "no Lovefeasts should be held without the consent of the Superintendent," and that "no person should attend any Lovefeast without a Society ticket, or a note from the Preacher" (*Compendium of Regulations*, 1869, vol. xvii. pp. 621, 622).

Of *Prayer Meetings* it is the less necessary to speak, since these are happily not now peculiar to Methodism, but are commonly held among most denominations of Christians. In addition to meetings for prayer held in the chapels, the Conference strongly advises the holding of *Cottage Prayer Meetings* in different parts of a town or neighbourhood, but not to interfere with Public Worship (1820, vol. v. p. 148; 1836, vol. viii. p. 86).

COVENANT-SERVICE.

The *Renewal of the Covenant*, on the first Lord's day of each year, is an observance greatly prized by the Methodists generally. The address read on the occasion is, in substance, that abridged by Mr. Wesley from the works of the Rev. Richard Alleine; and it has the special merit of presenting, in a very clear and impressive manner, the process of that receiving of Christ and self-surrender to Him on which our salvation is dependent. The solemn and formal renewal of our covenant with God in Christ is followed by the administration of the Lord's Supper. Admission to this service is by showing the Society Ticket, or by a note from the Minister. "The rule concerning showing tickets should be strictly observed in reference to the Covenant-Service" (1889, p. 412). It is often found that persons who have been brought to religious decision gladly embrace the opportunity of applying for such notes. The Ministers thus become acquainted with their spiritual state, and can welcome them into the Society.

A Revised Form of Covenant-Service was adopted by the Conference of 1897, at the same time it was decided that the

Form of Service now in use should continue to be printed and issued (1897, pp. 240-241).

Village Societies.—As many of the Members in the village Societies cannot take part in the Covenant-Service when held only in the principal chapels, the Conference directs that, when necessary, additional Covenant-Services be held for the smaller Societies, to be conducted by Ministers on the week nights at the commencement of the new year, and that in connexion with these services the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper be administered (1893, p. 228).

See *Resolutions on Pastoral Work*, pp. 528-544.

CHAPTER II

ADMISSION TO CHURCH MEMBERSHIP — REMOVAL NOTES —
QUARTERLY VISITATION OF THE CLASSES, AND RENEWAL OF
THE TICKETS OF MEMBERSHIP—ROLL OF MEMBERSHIP—
EXCLUSION FROM MEMBERSHIP—TRIAL OF MEMBERS WHO
ARE TRUSTEES—RIGHT OF APPEAL.

THE ADMISSION OF MEMBERS.

THE admission of Members into the Wesleyan Methodist Societies is the exclusive act of the Minister (1794, vol. i. p. 314). No Leader has power to put any person either into or out of Society (1787, vol. i. p. 194).

The reception of persons into membership is preceded by a period of probation, usually extending over two or three months. To prevent the introduction of improper persons, certain guards are provided. These guards are specified in the following Rules, found in the "Compendium of Regulations for the Methodist Societies," appended to the "Rules of the Society" in the Class Books, by direction of the Conference of 1864, and printed, also, in the *Minutes* of 1869. These Regulations, it should be added, before being finally confirmed by the Conference, had been approved by nearly all the Quarterly Meetings in Great Britain.

1. No Preacher shall give notes (admitting persons on trial) to any but those who are recommended by one he knows, or till they have met three or four times in Class. It is the Leader's duty to give them the "Rules of the Society" the first time they meet.

2. Neither the Superintendents, nor any other Preachers, shall

give tickets to any, till they are recommended by a Leader with whom they have met, at least two months, on trial.

3. The Leaders' Meeting has a right to declare any person on trial improper to be received into the Society; and, after such declaration, the Superintendent shall not admit such person into Society.

This Rule is expounded by the Conference in the terms following:—"That it never was intended that the names of all those who are on trial should be laid before a Leaders' Meeting for distinct and formal discussion; but solely, that if there be, in the opinion of a Leader, any reasonable objection to the character and conduct of any person who is on trial, such objection may be stated by him; and that, if the validity of the objection be established to the satisfaction of the Meeting, a member's Ticket shall not be given to the person, so objected to, at the Quarterly Visitation" (1842, vol. ix. p. 398; 1860, vol. xvii. p. 620).

4. No Preacher excluded for immorality, or who resigns his connexion with the Conference while under charges which affect his moral character, shall at any subsequent period be allowed to be a Local Preacher, or a Class Leader, or even a Member of Society, without the consent of the Conference, previously obtained" (1817, vol. iv. p. 344; 1898, p. 250).

RECOGNITION OF NEW MEMBERS.

The Public Recognition of New Members of Society is strongly recommended by the Conference, as being in accordance with early Methodist usage, and "of the highest importance to give all possible impressiveness to a Member's entrance into fellowship with the Church of Christ." "Such a service will also prove profitable and encouraging to older Members," and "will give to the whole Society a stronger feeling of corporate existence" (1878, p. 186; 1885, p. 278).

1. "The Public and Formal Recognition of New Members of Society is in accordance with early Methodist usage. A public welcome given by the Society tends to encourage the New Members, whilst the formal recognition will deepen their sense of responsibility."

"Such recognition should be associated, wherever practicable, with the Public Service on the Lord's Day, morning or

evening, and be followed by the administration of the Lord's Supper. In some places it might be found more expedient to recognise New Members at a Society Meeting after the Quarterly Visitation of the Classes ; or, in villages, a Recognition Service might take the place of a week evening service."

"The Conference therefore directs that, at least two or three times a year, if practicable, meetings for the Recognition of New Members be held in every Circuit, the frequency and exact nature of such meetings being left to the discretion of the Superintendent" (1890, pp. 317, 318).

2. "If, upon inquiry, it be found that any person, in other respects eligible for recognition, has not received Christian baptism, that Sacrament shall be administered before the recognition of that person, and, if not otherwise, in connexion with the Recognition Service" (1878, p. 186 ; 1885, p. 278).

The Conference of 1894 adopted a *Form of Service for the Public Recognition of New Members*, and directed that it should be printed in the *Minutes* (1894, p. 224, pp. 448-454).

REMOVAL NOTES.

The Conference attaches great importance to every Member having a Note of Removal when removing from one Circuit to another, and traces a large yearly loss of Members through lack of observing this Rule (1885, p. 297).

1. *Removing from One Circuit to Another*.—"Let no Member removing from one Circuit to another be received into Society without a Note of Removal, signed by one of the Itinerant Preachers of the Circuit from whence he has come" (1869, vol. xvii. p. 621).

To this Rule the following Note is appended :—

Members removing from Circuit to Circuit are affectionately exhorted to avail themselves of the regular Note of Removal. Otherwise, as many painful examples show, great spiritual loss is likely to be suffered.

2. *Removal to Localities having no Wesleyan Methodist Church.*—"The Conference is of opinion that, in case of the removal of a Member to a locality in which the Wesleyan Methodist Church is not represented, it is advisable that arrangements should be made for the authorised transfer of such Member to any other Methodist Church existing in the neighbourhood" (1888, p. 212).

QUARTERLY VISITATION OF THE CLASSES.

1. "Every Class is to be met by one of the Ministers of the Circuit to which it belongs, once a quarter, for renewal of the Tickets of Membership. It is an instruction to Superintendents "so to arrange in our several Circuits the plans for the Quarterly Visitation of the Classes, as to allow full time for a more minute examination into the Christian knowledge, experience, and practice of the members, and for pastoral inquiries, instructions, and counsels respecting personal and family religion" (1820, vol. v. p. 149).

2. "Believing that, next to the public 'Ministry of the Word,' the Quarterly Visitation of the Classes is our most important official work; and remembering that to those of our Members who are not accessible for visitation at their own homes, the Visitation of the Classes is probably their only opportunity of direct intercourse with their Ministers, let us be careful each quarter to meet personally every Class, never sending the Tickets to the Leader."

3. "And in making the Ticket Plan, let us so arrange the Visitation as not to crowd too many Classes together; but rather, by beginning the work early in the quarter, allow sufficient time in meeting each Class for a careful examination of the Members as to their Christian knowledge, experience, and practice, and for inquiry as to family religion; and also for suitable pastoral advice, encouragement, and admonition, for 'consolation in Christ,' for 'comfort of love,' for 'fellowship of the Spirit.'"

4. "And in connexion with the Visitation of the Classes, let us, on the one hand, inquire particularly into the experience and habits of those whom we find 'on Trial,' and receive into Society those only who, after due probation, may fairly be 'counted worthy.' And, on the other hand, let us not, upon slight grounds, return any person as having 'ceased to meet,' but before writing off such an one, let us inquire particularly into the case; and, wherever practicable, let us ourselves visit the person; and thus 'by all means save some' of the many who 'forsake the assembling of themselves together'" (1885, pp. 361, 362).

ROLL OF MEMBERSHIP.

1. "Every Superintendent is required to leave for his Successor, in the Circuit Book, not only a list of the Town and Circuit Stewards, and of the Annual Subscribers to our several Funds, etc., but especially an exact list of the names of all the Members in his Circuit, arranged in their several Classes and Societies, as found at the preceding Midsummer Visitation" (1820, vol. v. p. 153).

2. "It appears to be of the greatest possible importance, for the lessening of the present great loss of Members, that a Roll of Membership should be kept in every Society. Such a Roll should be, in fact, the aggregate of the Class Books, and it should be corrected, if possible, quarter by quarter, or at least once a year. While the Superintendent must be responsible for seeing that this Roll is duly kept, the actual work of correction, from quarter to quarter, might be done by one of his Junior Colleagues" (1889, p. 413).

TRIAL AND EXCLUSION OF MEMBERS.

With regard to the trial and exclusion of Members from the Society, the general course to be adopted is prescribed in (1) "The Rules of the Society"; (2) "The Form of

Discipline" (1797, vol. i. p. 681); (3) "The Special Address of the Conference to the Wesleyan Methodist Societies in Great Britain" (1835, vol. vii. pp. 573-591; the "Compendium of Regulations for the Methodist Societies," appended to the Rules of the Society in the Class Books, by the direction of the Conference of 1864, having been previously adopted by nearly all the Quarterly Meetings in Great Britain, and republished by the direction of the Conference in the *Minutes* of 1869 (vol. xvii. pp. 620-623); the Resolutions of the Conference on the Report of the Memorial Committee (1852, vol. xii. pp. 109-117); and in the "Report of the Committee on Church Membership," adopted by the Conference (1889, p. 409).

The Legislation of the Conference as to the exclusion of Members of Society is as follows:—

1. *The Law of God the Primary Standard of Judgment.*

The Law of God contained in the Holy Scriptures furnishes, in the trial of Members, that *primary* standard of judgment by which the innocence or culpability of any particular facts adduced in evidence is ever to be determined. . . . Any conduct in a man professing godliness which can be shown to be decidedly condemned by the precepts and principles of the New Testament, is surely sufficient to justify, if persisted in, the application of a suitable ecclesiastical censure, or other penalty, to such an individual; even although it may not have been previously found necessary to make a distinct and specific Rule of our own Society on that exact mode and form of delinquency. The New Testament *Law of Purity*, in reference both to the Pastors and Members of the Christian Church, and with respect both to Doctrine and Practice; its often-repeated *Law of Peace* and *Godly Quietness*, and its *Laws of Courtesy, Brotherly Kindness*, and mutual *Charity*, as well as its direction that "all things" should "be done decently and in order," and its requirement of reasonable submission, on the part of Church Members, to the Scriptural "rule" of those who are "over them in the Lord"; these are *standing enactments* of the Gospel, binding on all Christian Communities, and therefore binding on the Methodist Societies, without exception. Any obstinate violation of them must be

suitably visited, when proved; or else the authority of Jesus Christ Himself, as the Lord and Master of our department of His spiritual House, will be criminally set at nought; and He will have just cause to say to the Ministers and Pastors of our Community, as He did to one of old time: "I have somewhat against thee" (1835, vol. vii. pp. 583, 584).

See *Rules of the Society*, pp. 4-6.

2. *The Greater Number exclude themselves from the Society.*

(1) The far greater number of those that are separated from us exclude themselves by neglecting to meet in Class, and to use the other means of grace; and, so, gradually forsake us. With regard to others, the foregoing "Rules of the Society" prescribe the general course to be pursued:—"If there be any among us who observe them not, who habitually break any of them, let it be made known unto them who watch over that soul, as they that must give an account. We will admonish him of the error of his ways; we will bear with him for a season. But then, if he repent not, he hath no more place among us. We have delivered our own souls" (1869, vol. xvii. p. 621).

(2) "The far greater number," it is truly stated, "*exclude themselves* by utterly forsaking us." Continued absence from the Class Meeting or other means of grace, without any sufficient reason, or some manifest breach of the laws of God, or of the particular Rules of our own Connexion, is usually in such cases reported by the Class Leader to the Preacher, at the time of the Quarterly Visitation. If there be no denial of the fact, or satisfactory defence against the charge, on the part of the Member, or of his friends who may be present, and if the Preacher, in the case of alleged crime or misconduct, be of opinion that the offence is one of such grave and serious character as to require some public testimony of disapprobation, the immediate exclusion of such negligent or offending Member has usually resulted quietly, and as a matter of course, by the Preacher's withholding his Society Ticket, and erasing his name from the Class Book (1835, vol. vii. p. 579).

3. *Members not to be excluded on Insufficient Grounds or without Personal Visitation from the Minister.*

(1) No person shall be entered upon the Society Schedule as a "backslider" [ceased to be a Member] upon slight or insufficient grounds, nor without particular inquiry into the case, nor even, whenever it may be practicable, without a personal visitation on the part of one of the Ministers of the Circuit (1847, vol. x. p. 550).

(2) Much difficulty and confusion have arisen from the varying standards in the minds of Ministers as to the occasions which would warrant the withholding of a Ticket from a Member. It should be borne in mind that it is our Rule that no Member shall, either upon the recommendation of a Leader, or otherwise, be left without a Ticket, until he has been personally visited by a Minister. It must also be understood that there exists no Rule which requires a Minister to refuse a Ticket solely on the ground of irregular attendance at Class. . . . It is therefore the duty of the Minister to allow the name of no one to be removed from the Class Book who has not been carefully visited, patiently borne with, faithfully exhorted, earnestly entreated; or for any other than grave moral or spiritual reasons, or decided and persistent disaffection. And, even in such cases, every person so excluded from the fellowship of the Church must have the opportunity, if he claims it, of having his case judicially decided at a Leaders' Meeting, according to the provisions of our Discipline (1889, p. 409).

4. *Right to demand a Trial at a Leaders' Meeting.*

(1) The first ground on which a trial before a Leaders' Meeting is to be conceded to an accused Member is, that the person complained against should deny the charge brought against him. But if the party charged refuses, in the presence of the Leaders' Meeting, either to admit or deny the charge preferred against him, it is hereby declared to be the judgment of the Conference that he is not entitled to demand the production of evidence, nor to claim that his trial should be proceeded with; but the authorities concerned may justly assume that the allegations cannot be denied with truth. Yet, in some cases, it may be competent to the party bringing the complaint to offer proof of the matters charged, if the Superintendent deem it most conducive to the ends of Christian discipline to adopt such a course (1850, vol. xi. p. 482).

(2) If the Member so charged deny the allegation of a wilful neglect of our peculiar discipline as to Class Meetings, etc., or a breach of some law of Scripture, or Rule of Methodism, and demand a trial, for the proof or disproof thereof, before the Leaders' Meeting, or before a Committee of Leaders appointed by that Meeting, then such trial must . . . be forthwith conceded. If a majority of the Leaders, who vote at the Meeting, shall be "satisfied" that sufficient proof is adduced to establish the fact of a wilful and habitual negligence, or of the violation of some Scriptural or Methodistical Rule, and shall give a verdict to that effect, then the Leaders' Meeting has discharged its *whole part* of the painful duty to be performed, and the case is left in the hands of the Superintendent (1835, vol. vii. p. 579).

(3) When a charge is brought against any Member resident in a place where no Leaders' Meeting is statedly held, the case shall be referred for investigation to the Leaders' Meeting of the principal Society in the Circuit town. The Leader or Leaders, and the Society Stewards, of the Society of which the accused is a Member shall be associated with the Leaders' Meeting for the purposes of the investigation (1872, vol. xviii. p. 656).

(4) When a Class is visited by a Minister for the renewal of Tickets, and such offensive and disorderly language or conduct is voluntarily obtruded by a Member present, as in the judgment of the Minister may render it highly improper for him to renew the Ticket of that Member until after private conversation with him, the Minister may delay the renewal of a Ticket accordingly. And if the result of such private conversation should be unsatisfactory, the Minister may still retain the Ticket, if he judge it right so to do; but, *in that case*, he shall inform the person concerned that he may demand a trial at a Leaders' Meeting; and shall also report the case, first, to the next Weekly Meeting of the Ministers of the Circuit, and *then* to the Leaders' Meeting of that Society to which the party belongs (1852, vol. xii. p. 116).

5. *Expulsion only in Cases proved at a Leaders' Meeting.*

No person shall be expelled from the Society for immorality till such immorality be proved at a Leaders' Meeting (1797, vol. i. p. 319).

6. *Sentence of Expulsion to be deferred.*

(1) No sentence of expulsion shall hereafter be pronounced by any Superintendent *in the same Meeting* at which the trial shall have taken place. To afford time for full inquiry into the past character of the party, and other circumstances, and for calm and careful deliberation, the sentence shall be deferred for *at least one week* after the trial; unless the Superintendent be fully satisfied at once that the case is one in which some of the milder forms of discipline should alone be adopted, and that expulsion is not at all to be contemplated.

(2) In difficult or doubtful cases, the Superintendent is further directed not to proceed to the actual sentence of expulsion without privately asking information from such individual Leaders, or other judicious and experienced Members of the Society, as are most likely to put him into full possession of all the circumstances necessary to his forming, with due discretion and caution, his own final judgment on the subject (1835, vol. vii. p. 581).

(3) No person shall be expelled from the Society till his offence has been proved to the satisfaction of a Leaders' Meeting; which

Meeting is also entitled to declare, by its verdict, whether the facts alleged are or are not violations of the laws of God, or of our own body. No sentence of expulsion shall be pronounced *till at least one week* after the trial of a person accused. Meanwhile the Superintendent shall seek the fullest information from individual Leaders, and other judicious and experienced members of the Society; and shall also confer with his colleagues at their Weekly Meeting. In the case of an alleged violation of the peace and order of the Society, a second hearing before a Special Circuit Meeting may be claimed by the Superintendent, or by the person complained of, should either be dissatisfied by the decision of the Leaders' Meeting. Every expelled Member has a right of appeal to a Minor District Synod, to the Annual District Synod, and to the Conference (1869, vol. xvii. p. 621).

(4) The Conference resolves that no appeal shall be received after the completion of the year following the Conference immediately succeeding the act of discipline, except by special decision of the Conference (1891, p. 229).

7. Superintendents to consult the Preachers' Weekly Meeting.

Every case of proposed expulsion shall be brought by the Superintendent before the Weekly Meeting of the Preachers of his Circuit, in order that he may have the advantage of hearing the opinions and advice of his Colleagues and Co-pastors, before he shall finally decide on the course he ought to adopt (1835, vol. vii. p. 581).

8. Superintendents without Colleagues to consult Chairmen of Districts.

Inasmuch as a Superintendent is directed to bring before the Weekly Meeting of the Preachers of the Circuit every case of proposed expulsion of a Member, in order that he may have the advantage of hearing the opinions and advice of his Colleagues and Co-pastors, before he shall finally decide on the course he ought to adopt, the Conference directs that when the Superintendent has not a Colleague, and cannot therefore consult a Weekly Meeting of the Preachers of the Circuit, he shall, in every case of the proposed expulsion of a Member of Society, take counsel with the Chairman of the District (1898, pp. 253, 254).

COMMERCIAL FAILURES.

1. "To prevent scandal, whenever any Member of Society becomes a bankrupt, or compounds with his creditors, the

Superintendent and one of the Stewards shall talk with him at large. If a formal investigation be considered needful, a Committee shall be chosen by the Leaders' Meeting for that purpose on the nomination of the Superintendent, to consist of two or more competent persons, Members of Society, who may or may not be Members of the Leaders' Meeting; the Superintendent to be the Chairman. If, on receiving their Report, the Meeting shall conclude that fair accounts have not been kept, or that liabilities have been incurred without a reasonable probability of meeting them, the Superintendent shall proceed according to Rule."

2. "On the appointment of such Committee in the case of any Leader, Local Preacher, or Steward, the exercise of his functions shall be discontinued until his case is decided."

3. "If any of our Members, who have formerly failed in business, shall afterwards, by the blessing of God, have acquired property, it is their plain duty to pay their whole debt" (1869, vol. xvii. p. 623).

4. "If any Member be found to have speculated in business beyond a reasonable probability of his being able to meet every lawful demand, he shall be suspended from the privileges of the Society for one year at least" (1820, vol. v. p. 146).

CREATING STRIFE IN A CIRCUIT.

"If any local Officer or Member of our Society shall be found endeavouring to create or encourage dissension and strife in his own or in any other Circuit, or addicting himself to injurious railing against either the Doctrine, or the Discipline, or the Ministers of the Connexion, the person so offending shall be admonished by the Superintendent of the error of his ways; and if he still persist in his offence, shall, after trial in the usual form, if this be demanded, be put away from the Society" (1852, vol. xii. p. 115). See 1835, vol. vii. pp. 585, 586.

TRIAL OF MEMBERS WHO ARE TRUSTEES.

In reference to the trial of Trustees and their removal from the Society, the Conference has resolved as follows:—

1. No Trustee, however accused or defective in conformity to the Rules of the Society, shall be removed from the Society unless his crime or breach of Rule be proved in the presence of the Trustees and Leaders, namely, the Leaders' Meeting of the particular Society of which he is a Member, together with the Trustees of the Chapel with which that Society is connected, such Trustees being themselves Members of the Methodist Society (1869, vol. xvii. p. 625). See 1852, vol. xii. p. 116.

2. When a charge is brought against any Member resident in a place where no Leaders' Meeting is statedly held, the case shall be referred for investigation to the Leaders' Meeting of the principal Society in the Circuit town. The Leader or Leaders, and the Society Stewards of the Society of which the accused is a Member, shall be associated with the Leaders' Meeting for the purpose of the investigation. If the accused person is a Trustee, then there shall also be associated with the Leaders' Meeting, as above constituted, the Trustees of the Chapel with which the Society of which he is a Member is connected; or, if there is no such Chapel, then the Trustees of the Chapel in connexion with the principal Society in the Circuit town. But no Trustee shall, in either case, be so associated unless he is himself a Member of Society in the same Circuit (1872, vol. xviii. p. 656).

N.B.—When the Trustee of a Chapel withdraws or is duly excluded from the Society, he is no longer a Member of the Circuit Quarterly Meeting.

3. The Conference declares that a Trustee or Trustees may be removed from the Society, as well as any other local Officer or Officers, or Members of the Society, by the authority and direction of the District Synod, whenever a District Synod may be required to interfere with the local affairs of any disturbed Society (1852, vol. xii. p. 116). See *Special District Synods*, p. 26.

N.B.—The exclusion of a Trustee of a Chapel from Membership in the Society does not affect his legal position as a Trustee. That position is defined by the Trust Deed. The Chapel Model Deed contains an important clause relating to Trustees who withdraw or are duly excluded from the Society. See *Chapel Model Deed*, pp. 587, 588.

THE RIGHT OF APPEAL BY EXCLUDED MEMBERS.

During the life of John Wesley the Members had a right of appeal to him against the actions of the Assistants, as the Superintendents were then called, who had exercised discipline in his name. After Wesley's death, the Conference, which became the guardian of the rights of the Members of the Societies, declared itself "ready to do all possible justice" to expelled Members who had been injured by the "partiality or injustice" of Superintendents (1797, vol. i. p. 394). The appeal now lay to the Conference. But the opportunities of appeal were seriously restricted. The Conference met only once a year, and during the intervals of its sessions no authority existed to which an appeal might be made in cases of alleged oppression or injustice. This administrative difficulty was solved by the creation of District Committees—or District Synods, as they are now called.

That the Conference intended District Synods to be Courts of Appeal during the intervals of its sessions, is evidenced by a Resolution which was passed in 1791: "The Synods of the Districts shall determine all appeals whatsoever during the intervals of the Conference; and therefore all applications on Society business during the said intervals, which cannot be determined by the Assistants (Superintendents) of the Circuits, shall be made to the Synods only" (1791, vol. i. p. 254).

From the time when District Synods were instituted to the present day, they have been Courts of Appeal for Members who have considered that they have been unjustly deprived of their membership by the Superintendents of Circuits. In former times, when the Preachers stationed in a District were few in number, the "Committee" could be quickly convened in cases which required immediate attention. But as the number of the Ministers in the Districts increased, such "Committees" could not be held without considerable expense and trouble. In matters which concerned the exercise of

discipline upon Ministers, a way out of the difficulty was soon found. In 1793 what is now known as the Minor District Synod was created. It acted on behalf of the ordinary District Synod, and its proceedings and decisions were reported to that Synod for its consideration and adoption when it met in May. The right of appeal from the Minor District Synod to the Annual District Synod was reserved to all parties. In 1835 the Conference agreed "that the *principle* of the Rule of 1793 . . . respecting the appointment of *Minor* District Synods, in the case of Preachers, shall be extended also to the case of all excluded Members who choose to avail themselves of its provisions." It was agreed that a Minor District Synod should have the power of "modifying, reversing, or confirming the sentence against which such appeal shall be made"; and the decision of the Minor District Synod was declared to be "binding on all parties, unless subsequently altered, on further appeal, by the full District Synod or by the Conference" (1835, vol. vii. pp. 581, 582).

Frivolous or Vexatious Charges.—In order that the right of appeal to the Minor District Synod may not be abused, the Conference, in 1876, passed the following Resolution:—"If in any case it appears to the Chairman of a District that a demand for a Minor District Synod rests upon charges which are frivolous or vexatious, it is deemed to be within his discretionary power to decline to summon such a meeting; subject, however, to an appeal to the District Synod, or to the Conference, on the part of any of the persons concerned" (1876, vol. xx. pp. 156, 157).

Right of the President to visit any Court.—The Conference of 1797 gave the President "the right, if written to by any who are concerned, to visit any Circuit, and to inquire into their affairs with respect to METHODISM, and, in union with the District Synod, redress any grievance" (1797, vol. i. p. 395). When the President visited a Circuit, in the manner and for the purpose stated, the District Synod became *special*.

It was arranged that, in order that no Chairman might have cause to complain of the want of power, in cases which, according to his judgment, could not be settled in the ordinary District Synod, he should have authority to summon three of the nearest Superintendents to be incorporated with the District Synod. It was agreed that such Superintendents should have equal authority to vote, and "to settle everything till the Conference" (1797, vol. i. p. 395).

Special District Synods.—In 1835 the constitution of the Special District Synod was amended. In reference to the constitution of Special District Synods, on whatever subject such Synods might thereafter be deemed necessary, and in order to render their decisions satisfactory to our people, the Conference resolved, "that instead of *three* of the nearest Superintendents chosen by the Superintendent who calls the Meeting, *four* Superintendents, or *other* Preachers, may be called in, if either party desire such assistance, and be incorporated with the Preachers stationed in the District. Of these, *two shall be chosen by each of the two parties concerned* in the affairs to be settled by the Meeting. The parties may severally make choice of Preachers in whom they have most confidence, from *any* District, *without restriction as to contiguity*; and the President of the Conference, *if he judge it expedient*, may attend and preside in all such assemblies, according to the Regulations of 1797. The right of appeal to the Conference from the decision of this, as of all other inferior jurisdictions, is to be considered as reserved to all parties" (1835, vol. vii. p. 583).

*Resolutions of the Conference in reference to the
Right of Appeal by Excluded Members.*

1. "Every expelled Member has a right of appeal to a Minor District Synod, to the Annual District Synod, and to the Conference" (1869, vol. xvii. p. 621).

2. "In all cases of dissatisfaction with the sentence of expul-

sion pronounced by a Superintendent, the aggrieved person shall have the right of appeal to the Annual Synod of the Preachers of his District, and even, if still dissatisfied, to the Conference; who will hear him by a Committee, or by a Special Deputation, and endeavour to decide according to truth, and to the requirements of Holy Scripture and of our Discipline."

3. "But as it is readily admitted that the appeal to the full District Synod, or to the Conference, may possibly be found, practically, too inconvenient to admit of a sufficiently prompt and easy application, except in cases of extraordinary interest and importance, the Conference agrees and resolves: That the *principle* of the Rule of 1793 (see *Minutes*, vol. i. pp. 289, 290) respecting the appointment of *Minor* District Synods in the case of Preachers, shall be extended also to the case of all excluded Members who choose to avail themselves of its provisions. An excluded person shall, therefore, have the right of selecting *any two* Preachers of the District to which his Circuit belongs, the Superintendent shall select *two* other such Preachers, and the Chairman of the District shall also select *two* other such Preachers, and these six, with the Chairman of the District (or if it happens that the Chairman is himself the Superintendent whose act is impugned, then some other Preacher to be chosen by the six other Members as their Chairman *pro tempore*), shall meet in some convenient place, and shall have the power of modifying, reversing, or confirming the sentence against which such appeal shall be made. Their decision shall in such case be binding on all parties, unless subsequently altered, on further appeal, by the full District Synod, or by the Conference" (1835, vol. vii. pp. 581, 582). See pp. 146-149.

N.B.—"In the case of the trial of an appeal against a sentence of expulsion pronounced by the Chairman of a District in the capacity of Superintendent, two Members of the Synod shall be chosen by the President of the Conference, instead of by the Chairman of the District" (1897, p. 241).

4. "A Superintendent complaining of any Leaders' Meeting for refusing to act its constitutional part, or for acting it factiously or in contradiction to law and evidence, in the trial of an accused Member, shall have the same right of prompt appeal to the revision of a *Minor District Synod* as has been granted to an excluded Member in the other case supposed."

5. "In almost every case it is presumed that this *Minor District Synod* will be sufficient to accomplish the purposes of general peace and purity, and at least "settle everything till the Conference." But if not, there is still in reserve, where it may be found absolutely necessary, the power of calling a *Special District Synod*, consisting of the whole number of the Christian Pastors of that District, who shall be in Full Connexion with the Conference, according to our existing Rules respecting District Synods; whose powers, either in the cases here particularly intended or in any other cases, nothing contained in this document [*Special Address to the Wesleyan Methodist Societies*, 1835] shall be construed to weaken or abridge" (1835, vol. vii. pp. 581-583; 1894, p. 217). For *Special District Synod*, see pp. 149-152; *The Conference a Final Court of Appeal*, pp. 26, 64, 65. See also *The Minor District Synod as a Court of Appeal*, pp. 148, 149.

RIGHT OF APPEAL BY EXCLUDED OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH.

In reference to the appointment and removal of Stewards and Leaders, the law, as it stands at present, appears in the "Compendium of Regulations for the Methodist Societies" appended to the Rules of Society in the Class Books by the direction of the Conference of 1864, and is as follows:—

1. No person shall be appointed a Leader, or be removed from his office, but in conjunction with a Leaders' Meeting; the nomination to be with the Superintendent, and the approval or disapproval with the Leaders' Meeting.

2. No person shall be appointed a Society Steward, or Poor Steward, or be removed from his office but in conjunction with a

Leaders' Meeting; the nomination to be with the Superintendent, and the approval or disapproval with the Leaders' Meeting.

3. The office of a Steward ceases at the end of the year, and no Steward shall remain in office above three years in succession, except in some extraordinary case.

4. Circuit Stewards are to be appointed at a Quarterly Meeting; the nomination being with the Superintendent, and the approval with the Meeting (1869, vol. xvii. p. 624).

The right of appeal to the District Synod and to the Conference, by an Officer when removed from office by disciplinary action, springs from the method of appointment to and removal from office, and is in accordance with long-established usage. "Following the precedent furnished by the method employed in excluding a Member from the Society, when an Officer is tried, the finding of the facts is within the province of the Meeting that tries him. When the facts are found, the sentence is left in the hands of the Superintendent. The right to pronounce sentence carries with it, in the case of an Officer removed from his office, as in that of a Member deprived of his membership, the right of appeal to the District Synod and the Conference. The right of appeal by an Officer against the action of a Superintendent who has deprived him of his office has been established by long-standing usage."

The Report of a Committee on the *Law of Appeal*, received by the Conference of 1898, cites a number of cases taken from the Journal of the Conference, which "prove decisively the right of Leaders, Stewards, and Local Preachers, when removed from office by disciplinary action, to appeal to District Synods and the Conference" (*Agenda*, pp. 91-93).

Right of Appeal by a Local Preacher in any matter affecting his standing as a Local Preacher.—See pp. 224, 225.

Time Limit of Right of Appeal.—"The Conference resolves that no appeal shall be received after the completion of the year following the Conference immediately succeeding the act of discipline, except by the special decision of the Conference" (1891, p. 229).

CHAPTER III

PASTORAL OVERSIGHT OF THE YOUNG—JUNIOR SOCIETY CLASSES.

THE pastoral oversight of the young has always been regarded as a most important duty devolved on the Ministers of Methodism. As one method of carrying out this oversight, the Ministers are “solemnly enjoined to hold, wherever practicable, regular Weekly Meetings with the children of our people, under the age of fourteen, on the most convenient day of the week, in every town where a Preacher has his stated residence” (1838, slightly modified in 1875, vol. xix. pp. 711, 712). The Conference has further directed that “inquiry should be made in Ministers’ Meetings, and in the May District Synods, respecting the observance of this Regulation.” See p. 535.

JUNIOR SOCIETY CLASSES.

In the year 1878 the Conference adopted a plan of *Junior Society Classes*, designed to prepare young persons, by Christian instruction and the nurturing of spiritual sensibility, for admission to full Church-membership (1878, pp. 184, 185).

The Conference of 1892 appointed a Committee to consider the entire question of the Junior Society Class, including the relation of the Leader to the Leaders’ Meeting, and in 1894 the following Resolutions, which had been submitted to the several Districts at their Annual Synods, were finally adopted:—

1. In connexion with our Societies, Classes shall be generally established which shall directly provide for the religious instruction of young people. They shall have as their object the early conversion of the children to God, their instruction and training in Christian doctrines and morality, and the development of Christian experience and character. For these purposes Holy Scripture shall be largely used. As a rule, these Classes shall be met week by week.

2. When these Classes are not in the hands of Ministers, they may be entrusted to other persons who have been approved by the vote of the Leaders’ Meeting of the Society with which the Classes are connected, after nomination by the Superintendent Minister. At the meeting following the appointment, the person so appointed shall be present, and an address shall be given by the Minister, setting forth the nature and importance of the office.

3. All the recognised Members of such Classes shall be enrolled in books to be provided for the purpose. No one shall be considered a Member of such a Class unless he has attended at least three months, and is recommended by the Leader of the Class.

4. Each young person so recognised as a Member shall receive a Ticket, provided by the Book-Room, signed by a Minister of the Circuit, and renewable every quarter. A return of the number of young persons to whom such Tickets are given shall be made quarterly to the Circuit Quarterly Meeting, and annually through the District Synods to the Conference.

5. Membership in these Classes shall be accepted instead of the ordinary probation in the Society Classes, but the term of such probationary membership shall be undefined, and be terminable at the discretion of a Minister of the Circuit. In no case, however, shall the probationary period be less than twelve months.

6. These Classes shall be met once a quarter by a Minister for the renewal of Tickets, as already provided; and at such quarterly visitation the Minister shall give Tickets of full membership, with the Rules of the Society, to such Members of the Classes as, after consultation with the Leader, he shall deem eligible for admission into the Church as full Members.

7. In all cases where full Members' Tickets are given, the names must be entered in an ordinary Society Class Book, under a duly appointed Class Leader. These Members may continue to meet in the Junior Society Class in which they have heretofore met, if, in the judgment of the Minister and the Leaders' Meeting, the Junior Society Leader is a suitable person to be appointed as a Class Leader. In such a case, the Leader, if not already a Class Leader in the full and ordinary sense, shall be nominated as such at a Leaders' Meeting; and, as early as possible after his election to this position, the Minister shall address him specially on the duties of his new office. When a Junior Society Leader is not so appointed, all Members of his Junior Society Class who receive Tickets of full Membership must be transferred to the Class of a duly appointed Class Leader.

8. It shall be a special duty of the Ministers, in association with the Leaders of the Junior Society Classes, to prepare the minds of the Members for taking the Lord's Supper, and for their public recognition as fully received Members of the Church.

9. The Members of these Classes shall not be liable to assessment for Connexional Funds; but, with due discretion, they shall be encouraged to support the Ministry by weekly contributions or otherwise (1894, pp. 218, 219).

10. The Conference earnestly recommends the Leaders of Junior Society Classes to make systematic use of our First and Second Catechisms in their Weekly Meetings with the young people of their charge (1883, p. 183).

PART II

THE CONNEXIONAL SYSTEM AND ADMINISTRATION OF WESLEYAN METHODISM

CHAPTER I

THE CONFERENCE—ITS CONSTITUTION—THE LEGAL CONFERENCE.

THE *Deed of Declaration*.—In anticipation of his decease, Mr. Wesley, after taking Counsel's opinion, defined and constituted "the Yearly Conference of the People called Methodists," by a Deed of Declaration, enrolled in His Majesty's High Court of Chancery, and bearing the date of 28th February 1784.

In this instrument he associated with himself and his brother, the Rev. Charles Wesley, ninety-eight of the Preachers connected with him as "the Conference"; provided for the filling up of vacancies in the number as they should from time to time occur; defined the powers and duties of the Conference; and specified certain conditions and arrangements which are permanently binding.

THE LEGAL CONFERENCE.

The Legal Conference thus consists of one hundred Ministers, appointed in accordance with the provisions of this Deed of

Declaration, sometimes called the "Deed Poll," because executed by one person only.

The Conference is bound by the Deed of Declaration to assemble every year; and at each of its Annual Sessions it is to fix the time and place of its next meeting. It is provided that the duration of its Annual Meeting shall not be less than five days, nor more than three weeks. Forty Members of the Conference are required to be present in order to make any act valid. The act of the majority is to all intents and purposes to be taken as the act of the Conference. The Deed of Declaration is given entire in Appendix No. I.

Vacancies in the Legal Conference.—Vacancies in the Legal Conference are caused by death, by absence from the Conference for two successive years without a dispensation, and by the act of the Conference, affirming that certain persons are no longer Members of that body.

It is under this last provision that Ministers who have been Supernumeraries for a given time, and who have not been Presidents of the Conference, cease to be Members of the Legal Hundred. They do not cease to hold this position simply in consequence of their having been Supernumeraries for a certain number of years, but by a distinct act of the Conference, in the exercise of the power confided to it in the eighth clause of the Deed of Declaration.

Until the year 1877, the period during which a Minister should be a Supernumerary, before he retired from the Legal Conference, was four years; but at the Conference of that year it was resolved that, in order to give to a larger number of senior Ministers the opportunity of being, for a time, Members of the Legal Conference, and for other reasons, the period should be reduced to two years, but with the understanding that this arrangement should not apply to those who were *then* Members of the Legal Conference.

Ministers who have ceased to be Members of the Legal Conference on the ground of Superannuation, cease also at the

same time to be Members of the Representative Session, unless they have been elected as Representatives by the Synods, or appointed by the preceding Conference to represent Departments (1897, p. 245).

“In the case of a Member of the Legal Conference who has been permitted to retire for one or for two years, he shall not thereby cease to be a member of the Legal Conference, provided he then (that is to say, at the end of the first or second year) returns to the Full Work; and he shall remain a Member of the Legal Conference for two years after becoming a Supernumerary permanently” (1890, p. 212).

“In the case of a Member of the Legal Conference having been entered on the *Minutes* as without pastoral charge, in conformity with the Resolutions of the Conference of 1888, the Conference resolves that, at the expiration of four years from the commencement of such an arrangement, he shall cease to be a Member of the Legal Conference.”

“The effect of this Resolution shall not be retrospective” (1890, p. 212).

CONSTITUTION OF THE CONFERENCE.

The first act of the Conference, on its assembling, is to fill up vacancies in the Legal Conference caused by death, or by absence for two successive years without a dispensation. The number of one hundred Members being thus complete, the Conference proceeds to the election of its President and Secretary; and then enters upon the consideration of the retirement of Members who have been Supernumeraries for the prescribed time, and the election of other Ministers in their stead.

Scrutineers are appointed to take charge of the voting for the Legal Conference and for the offices of President and Secretary (1892, p. 217).

Elections into the Legal Conference.—With regard to the

filling up of vacancies, the only requirement of the Deed of Declaration is, that "no person shall be elected a member of the Conference who hath not been admitted into connexion with the Conference, as a Preacher and expounder of God's Holy Word, for twelve months." But the Conference has restricted the choice to Ministers who have travelled *at least fourteen years*, and has established the following mode of procedure. The Legal Conference having associated with itself, during its Pastoral Session (as will be hereafter explained), all the Ministers in Full Connexion who are chosen by their respective District Synods to attend its sittings, it has been arranged that every alternate vacancy in the Legal Conference shall be filled up on the ground of *nomination*. It is open to any Member of the Conference to name any Minister who has travelled fourteen years, as specially eligible for this position; and then all Ministers who have travelled *ten years and upwards* are at liberty to vote for any one of the persons so named, or for any other Minister who has travelled *fourteen years*. The vote is by ballot in writing. The Legal Conference is requested to elect the person who is nominated by the greatest number, which it does by a separate vote. The alternate vacancies are filled up by ballot by the Legal Conference, from a list of Ministers in the full work made out according to seniority.

Members of the Legal Conference in Ireland.—From the very first some Members of the Legal Conference have been Ministers labouring in Ireland; and it has for many years been agreed that *ten* Members out of the hundred should belong to Ireland. When a vacancy occurs among these, the Irish Conference nominates the successor; and the Legal Conference is requested to elect the person so nominated. Every alternate vacancy is filled up on the ground of *nomination* or *seniority*.

Election of President and Secretary.—Any Member of the Legal Conference is eligible to be elected to the office of President as far as the provisions of the Deed Poll are concerned; but it was resolved in the year 1792 that "the same President

is not to be re-chosen above once in eight years" (1792, vol. i. p. 269). Any Member of the Legal Conference is eligible to be elected to the office of Secretary ; and no restriction is placed on the re-election of the same person to this office for any number of years which may seem good to the Conference. As to the privilege and power of the President, it is declared in the Deed Poll that the President "shall have the privilege and power of two Members in all acts of the Conference during his presidency, and such other powers, privileges, and authorities as the Conference shall, from time to time, see fit to intrust into his hands."

In the election of the President and Secretary, the same order is observed, generally speaking, as in the election of Members into the Legal Conference on the ground of nomination. The Conference first elects the President, and then proceeds to the election of the Secretary. Every Minister who is present and has travelled *ten* years is at liberty to name in writing the Members of the Legal Conference whom he deems most fit to hold these offices respectively ; and the Legal Conference is requested to *elect* the Minister nominated by the greatest number of the general body. Since 1816, when this method of election was agreed to, it has always done so ; but it was then further agreed that, in the very unlikely case of the Legal Conference negating such nomination, the general body should proceed to a second nomination ; and "the result of that nomination should be, in like manner, submitted to the decision of the Hundred, who are the legal electors." "No person shall vote for the President by proxy" (1793, vol. i. p. 288).¹ Distinctive voting papers are prepared for the Members of the Legal Conference, in the elections to the Legal Hundred and to the offices of President and Secretary of the Conference (1893, p. 228).

Induction of the President.—The afternoon session following

¹ For the Constitution of the Conference and Election of the President and Secretary under the proposed Order of Sessions, see p. 40.

the first session of the Conference is open to our people, under the customary Regulations, until half-past four, and is occupied with the induction of the President into his office, the delivery of his address, and with devotional exercises.

Powers of the Conference.—The chief powers confided to the Conference by the Deed of Declaration relate (1) to the admission of persons to be “Preachers and expounders of God’s Holy Word,” or upon trial for this office, in connexion with them; (2) the putting out of any Member of the Legal Conference from being a member thereof, and of any person admitted as a Preacher into connexion with them, or upon trial, “for any cause which to the Conference may seem fit or necessary”; and (3) the appointment of Preachers “to the use and enjoyment of, or to preach and expound God’s Holy Word in, any of the chapels” of the Connexion. (4) The exercise of this last power is restricted by the provision, that “the Conference shall not, nor may, appoint any person for more than three years successively, to the use and enjoyment of any chapels and premises which are subject to the provisions of the said Deed of Declaration, except ordained Ministers of the Church of England.”

Powers of Delegation.—The Conference has power, in order to meet the case of Ireland, and of other parts out of Great Britain, to delegate to any Member or Members of its body, any or all of the powers and privileges which itself possesses. The thirteenth clause of the Deed of Declaration, which confers this power, is as follows:—

And for the convenience of the chapels and premises already or which may hereafter be given or conveyed upon the trusts aforesaid, situate in Ireland, or other parts out of the kingdom of Great Britain, the Conference shall and may, when, and as often as it shall seem expedient, but not otherwise, appoint and delegate any Member or Members of the Conference with all or any of the powers, privileges, and advantages hereinbefore contained or vested in the Conference; and all and every the acts, admissions, expulsions, and appointments whatsoever of such Member or Members of the Conference, so appointed and delegated as aforesaid, the same

being put into writing, and signed by such Delegate or Delegates, and entered in the Journals or Minutes of the Conference, and subscribed as after mentioned, shall be deemed, taken, and be the acts, admissions, expulsions, and appointments of the Conference, to all intents, constructions, and purposes whatsoever, from the respective times when the same shall be done by such Delegate or Delegates, notwithstanding anything herein contained to the contrary.

Delegate in Ireland.—In accordance with the provision contained in this clause, the Conference, each year, appoints one of its Members, usually its President, and in the case of his unavoidable absence, the ex-President, or some Minister nominated by the Irish Conference, or some other ex-President, to be *its Delegate* in Ireland; and the formal resolution is adopted: "The President, or other Minister, acting as Delegate under the authority of the preceding appointment, who shall preside at the next Conference in Ireland, shall exercise the powers confided to him under and by virtue of the thirteenth clause of Mr. Wesley's Deed Poll, dated the 28th of February 1784."

The acts of the Delegate in Ireland, embracing the admission of persons as Ministers into Full Connexion with the Conference, the continuance of certain persons as Preachers on trial, the receiving of others on trial, the removal of persons from being in connexion with the Conference, and the stations of the Irish Ministers, are recorded, according to the requirements of the thirteenth clause of the Deed Poll, in the Journals of the Conference. These "acts," are thus distinguished from other resolutions of the Irish Conference, in the wider sense of that phrase.

Affiliated Conferences.—So long as other Conferences continue to be affiliated to the Yearly Conference, they have the right to nominate a Minister to be the President; but the appointment to that office rests with the Yearly Conference (1882, p. 211; 1884, p. 194).

Entry in Journal.—The Deed of Declaration also requires

that the acts of the Conference shall be entered and written in its Journal, and, after being publicly read, shall be subscribed, in the presence of the Conference, by the President and Secretary (*Journal*, 1877). (See Appendix I. Deed of Declaration, clause 14.)

Attestation of the Journal.—The retiring President and Secretary shall hereafter attest by their signature in the margin of the Journal the filling up of vacancies in the Legal Conference, and the election of the President and Secretary ^{2.3} for the ensuing year (*Journal*, 1877).

MINISTERS IN FULL CONNEXION ASSOCIATED WITH THE LEGAL CONFERENCE.

From the very first the Legal Conference has associated with itself all the Ministers in Full Connexion with it who have had permission to attend its sittings, the acts of the larger body, however, being adopted and confirmed by the express vote of the Legal Hundred.

John Wesley's Letter to the Conference.—When the Conference first assembled after the death of Mr. Wesley, the following letter, which he had placed in the hands of the Rev. Joseph Bradford, was read:—

CHESTER, 7th April 1785.

TO THE METHODIST CONFERENCE.

MY DEAR BRETHREN,—

Some of our travelling Preachers have expressed a fear that, after my decease, you would exclude them, either from preaching in connexion with you, or from some other privileges which they now enjoy. I know no other way to prevent any such inconvenience, than to leave these my last words with you.

I beseech you, by the mercies of God, that you never avail yourselves of the Deed of Declaration to assume any superiority over your brethren; but let all things go on, among those Itinerants who choose to remain together, exactly in the same manner as when I was with you, so far as circumstances will permit.

In particular, I beseech you, if you ever loved me, and if you now love God and your brethren, to have no respect of persons in stationing the Preachers, in choosing children for Kingswood ¹ ₂

School, in disposing of the Yearly Contribution and the Preachers' Fund, or any other public money. But do all things with a single eye, as I have done from the beginning. Go on thus, doing all things without prejudice or partiality, and God will be with you even to the end.

JOHN WESLEY.

Resolutions of the Conference on John Wesley's Letter.—On receiving this letter, the Conference unanimously resolved: "That all the Preachers who are in Full Connexion with them shall enjoy every privilege that the Members of the Conference enjoy, agreeably to the above-written letter of our venerable deceased Father in the Gospel" (1791, vol. i. pp. 242, 243). To this Resolution the Conference of 1797 made the following limitation:—"except in voting for the President and Secretary" (1797, vol. i. p. 696).

CONSTITUTION OF THE CONFERENCE AND NOMINATION OF THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY UNDER THE PROPOSED NEW ORDER OF SESSIONS.

The Conference of 1898 in its Representative Session *provisionally* resolved "that a change in the Order of Sessions is desirable" (1898, p. 355). The Pastoral Session accepted the decision that "the Representative Session precede the Pastoral Session," but resolved:—

1. "That the reserved questions should still be reserved, and the formal Constitution of the Legal Conference and the Nomination of the President and Secretary should continue to be part of the business transacted by the Conference when composed of Ministers only."

2. That a Committee be appointed to sit during the year "to consider all details of arrangement rendered necessary by the alteration of the Order of the Sessions of the Conference, including the formal Constitution of the Legal Conference and the Election of the President and Secretary" (1898, pp. 355 and 252).

The Committee has met, and recommends (1) that "the vacancies caused by death or absence for two successive years without a dispensation" shall be filled up by the Legal Conference on the ground of *Seniority*; (2) that the Conference in its Pastoral Session shall nominate the President and Secretary for the following year; and (3) that if during the year the Minister nominated for either of these offices has died, or become from any cause incompetent, the Ministerial Members of the Representative Session shall, by a silent vote, make another nomination, and the Legal Conference will elect accordingly.

Upon the adoption of the Committee's recommendations, the following will be the Order of Procedure in the Constitution of the Conference and the Election of the President and Secretary:—

The Representative Session will meet first; and immediately after the "Calling of the Roll" "the vacancies caused by death or absence for two successive years without a dispensation" will be filled up by the Members of the Legal Conference on the ground of *Seniority*. The President and Secretary will then be formally elected on the nomination of the Pastoral Session of the preceding Conference.

If the Minister nominated for the office of either President or Secretary shall have died or become incapacitated, the Ministerial Members of the Representative Session will make another nomination.

When the Pastoral Session meets, the vacancies by Superannuation will be declared, and will then be filled up on the ground of *Nomination*.

The Nomination of the President and Secretary for the following Conference will also be made.

See *Order of Sessions*, pp. 51-55.

to fill vacancies in the Conference

CHAPTER II

THE CONFERENCE: LAY REPRESENTATION.

ONE principle involved in the arrangement by which Ministers in Full Connexion, chosen to attend the Conference, were associated with the Members of the Legal Hundred in the transaction of its business—the acts of the larger body being confirmed by the express vote of the Members of the Legal Conference—was applied to the Scheme of Lay Representation,—the Conference having resolved to admit Lay Representatives to share in its deliberations and decisions on many subjects not expressly confided to it by the Deed of Declaration. For many years, indeed, the affairs of most of the Departments of Methodism had been administered by mixed Committees of Ministers and Laymen; and the meeting of the Conference, in each year, had been preceded by the assembling of mixed *Committees of Review*, that considered the state of each Department and any general questions affecting it,—the resolutions of which Committees were afterwards brought before the Conference. The Conference, in the year 1877, after prolonged and earnest deliberation, adopted a scheme of Lay Representation, which was brought into operation at the Conference of 1878. According to this plan, the Conference, consisting of Ministers only, first holds its Pastoral Session, dealing with the subjects which are recognised as belonging to it; and then holds its Representative Session, in which other subjects, specified in the scheme, come before it. During the Pastoral Session the Conference

consists of the Legal Conference and all the Ministers in Full Connexion with it who have permission from their respective District Synods to attend its sittings; and during the Representative Session it consists of the Legal Conference and the Ministerial and Lay Representatives who have been elected according to the Scheme. The acts of the Conference, in this wider sense, both during its Pastoral and its Representative Sessions, are confirmed by the vote of the Legal Conference.

SCHEME OF LAY REPRESENTATION.

The Scheme is as follows:—

I. The Conference, when considering such matters as are hereinafter declared to be within the province of Ministers and Laymen acting conjointly, shall consist of the President of the Conference, and of 240 Ministers and 240 Laymen.

(i.) The Ministerial Members of the Conference when the Lay Representatives are present shall be, in addition to the President and all other Members of the Legal Conference for the time being who shall have declared at the May Meeting of the District Synod their intention to attend the Conference:—

(a) Any Assistant Secretary of the Conference not being a Member of the Legal Conference.

(b) All Chairmen of Districts in Great Britain, not being Members of the Legal Conference.

(c) Six Ministers in Full Connexion, stationed in Foreign Districts, who may be in England at the time of the sitting of the Conference. The Conference, when consisting of Ministers only, shall determine in what manner such Ministers shall be chosen; or if there be not six such Ministers in England at the time of the sittings of the Conference, in what manner their places shall be supplied.

(d) If, in any year, any Department would not, in the judgment of the Conference, be adequately represented by Members of the Legal Conference, provision shall be made for the Ministerial Representation of such Department by the preceding Conference when consisting of Ministers only.

(e) The remaining Ministerial Members of the Conference when composed of Ministers and Laymen shall be elected at the Annual Meetings in May of the Dis-

trict Synods in Great Britain.¹ The method of electing Ministers to attend the Conference in its Representative Session was modified in 1886, and is as follows :—

- (1) The election shall be by ballot, after nomination, from among the whole number of Ministers in any District who desire to attend the Conference.
- (2) The Ministers so elected shall have permission to attend the Conference in its Pastoral Session.
- (3) The Ministers necessary to complete the number permitted to attend the Conference in its Pastoral Session shall then be elected.
- (4) In the event of any Minister elected to attend the Conference in its Representative Session offering to provide for himself, his election shall not thereby be rendered void (1886, p. 199).

N.B.—The Conference declares that Ministers who have ceased to be Members of the Legal Conference on the ground of Superannuation cease also to be Members of the Representative Session, unless they have been previously chosen as Representatives by the May Synods or appointed by the preceding Conference to Departments (1897, p. 245).

N.B.—The newly-elected Members of the Legal Conference in each year shall be Members of the Conference when composed of Ministers and Laymen.

- (ii.) No Layman shall be eligible as a Representative, whether elected annually by the Conference or by the May Meeting of the District Synod, unless he be a Member of Society of five years' continuous standing, and, at the time of his election by the Conference or nomination in the District Synod, a holder of office as a Trustee of Connexional Property, a Member of a Circuit Quarterly Meeting, or a Member of a District Synod. Any Layman nominated in a District Synod must be a Member of Society in some Circuit within that District.

- (a) One-eighth of the Lay Representatives shall be elected annually by the Conference when composed of Ministers and Laymen; but in the case of the first Conference to be held after the adoption of this Scheme, by the preceding Conference. This number shall in all cases include the Lay Treasurers of the following General Connexional Funds, namely, the Foreign Missions Fund, the Fund for the Maintenance

¹ The *Allocation Committee* recommends to the Conference the number of Ministers to be elected by each District Synod.

and Education of Ministers' Children, the Chapel Fund, the Metropolitan Chapel Building Fund, the Home Mission and Contingent Fund, the Auxiliary Fund, the Theological Institution Fund, the Education Fund, and the Fund for the Extension of Methodism in Great Britain, for the time being. One-third of the remaining number elected in the first instance by the Conference shall retire at the end of the first year; one-third at the end of the second year; and one-third at the end of the third year. This arrangement, for retirement in rotation, shall be continued from year to year, and the Lay Representatives so retiring shall not be immediately eligible for re-election by the Conference.

- (b) For the present, the election of the remaining Lay Representatives to the Conference shall be by the separate vote of the Laymen, taken by ballot after nomination in the May Meetings of the District Synods; such nomination to be by the Lay Members only. The Circuit Stewards of each Circuit shall be called upon at the March Quarterly Meeting to declare their ability and willingness to attend the ensuing Annual Meeting of the District Synod in May, or the contrary. If they, or either of them, shall declare inability or unwillingness to attend the said District Synod, the Quarterly Meeting shall have the right of electing by and from its own Membres, and by open vote, a Representative or Representatives to supply the vacancy or vacancies so created.
- (c) The number of Laymen to be elected in each District shall be determined by each preceding Conference when consisting of Ministers and Laymen;¹ but, in the case of the first Conference to be held after the adoption of this scheme, by the preceding Conference.

II. The business to be transacted by the Conference when consisting of Ministers only shall be completed before that which is to be transacted by Ministers and Laymen conjointly is entered upon.

N.B.—A new Order of Business was adopted in 1889, by which the Representative Session commences on the Monday of the second week of the Conference, and the Pastoral Session is resumed at the close of the Representative Session (1890, pp. 419–427). See *General Order of Conference Business*, pp. 54, 56–58.

¹ The *Allocation Committee* recommends to the Conference the number of Laymen to be elected by each District Synod.

III. The deliberations of the Conference when consisting of Ministers and Laymen shall be confined to the duly appointed Members of that Conference; but any Minister permitted by the District Synod to attend the Conference when composed of Ministers only may be present during the Sessions of the Conference when composed of Ministers and Laymen; and the Lay Members of Connexional Committees may be present during the proceedings of the Conference when composed of Ministers and Laymen. Seats for the purpose shall be reserved for Ministers and Laymen.

The admission of any other persons shall be determined and arranged according to circumstances, at the discretion of the Conference.

IV. The following subjects remain within the exclusive province of the Conference when consisting of Ministers only, as modified by the Order of Business adopted in 1889, viz.—

- (i.) The formal constitution of the Conference: Filling up of vacancies in the Legal Conference: Election of the President and Secretary: and the appointment of other Officers of the Conference.
- (ii.) Ministerial Lists: Admission and continuance of Preachers on Trial: Arrangements for the Examination of Candidates and of Preachers on Trial: Admission into Full Connexion, and Ordination.
- (iii.) All Questions affecting Ministerial Character and Ability, and of Discipline arising thereupon, or in any wise relating thereto.
- (iv.) All Final Appeals in matters of Discipline relating either to Ministers or Members.
- (v.) Ministers becoming Supernumeraries: Supernumeraries returning to the Work.
- (vi.) Obituaries.
- (vii.) Stations: and all Appointments of Ministers.
- (viii.) Pastoral consideration of the Number and State of the Societies, and Pastoral Address.
- (ix.) Pastoral Reports: Kingswood School and Southport School, Sheffield and Taunton Colleges, the Leys School, Cambridge, and any similar Institution.
- (x.) Supervision of Connexional Literature.
- (xi.) Conduct of Public Worship, in accordance with the rules and usages of the Connexion.
- (xii.) And all Ministerial and Pastoral Subjects of like nature with any of those specified in this Resolution, or affecting the Ministerial or Pastoral Supervision of the Connexion.

N.B.—It is understood that the Management of the Book-Room remains as at present.

V. The following subjects shall come within the province of the Conference when consisting of Ministers and Lay Representatives, as modified by the Resolutions of 1889, viz.—The business now classed in the printed Minutes of the Conference under the several heads of—

- (i.) Time and Place for holding the next Conference.
- (ii.) Official Appointments, Deputations and Delegations.
- (iii.) Home and Foreign Missionary Deputations.
- (iv.) Nomination of Ministers for Designation or Appointment to Departmental Offices.
- (v.) Committees of Privileges and Exigency.
- (vi.) Missions (Foreign).
- (vii.) Schools : Kingswood ; and Trinity Hall, Southport.
- (viii.) Chapel Affairs : (a) General Fund ; (b) South Wales District Chapel Fund ; (c) North Wales District Chapel Fund ; (d) The Relief and Extension Fund for Methodism in Scotland ; and (e) The Metropolitan Chapel Building Fund.
- (ix.) The Children's Fund.
- (x.) The Home Mission and Contingent Fund : (a) General Committee ; (b) Army and Navy Committee ; (c) Thames Mission ; (d) London Mission ; the Manchester and Salford, and any similar Mission.
- (xi.) The Worn-out Ministers' and Ministers' Widows' Auxiliary Fund.
- (xii.) The Wesleyan Theological Institution.
- (xiii.) Education : (a) The General Committee ; (b) Connexional Sunday School Union ; (c) Children's Home.
- (xiv.) Higher Education.
- (xv.) Religious Observance of the Lord's Day.
- (xvi.) Extension of Methodism in Great Britain.
- (xvii.) Temperance.

Also all questions relating to—

- (xviii.) District Sustentation Funds.
 - (xix.) Proposed Alterations and Divisions of Circuits or Districts against which there is any appeal.
- N.B.*—The Conference when consisting of Ministers only shall have power to consider and decide all questions as to alterations and divisions of Circuits or Districts on which the Quarterly Meetings and District Synods shall be agreed, and against which there is no appeal ; and also all propositions for the calling out of additional Ministers which shall have received the sanction of the Home Mission Committee.
- (xx.) And all financial and general subjects of like nature, with any of those specified in this Resolution, or affecting the financial or general affairs of the Connexion.

But all matters connected with, or arising out of, the consideration or decision of the subjects specified in this Resolution, which in the foregoing Resolution are stated to be within the province of the Conference when consisting of Ministers only, shall be considered and decided accordingly.

VI. The consideration and determination of all questions raised by any Resolutions of District Synods, or by Memorials from Circuit Quarterly Meetings, or otherwise, shall come within the province of the Conference when exclusively Ministerial, or when the Lay Representatives shall be present, according to the subject-matter thereof respectively. In all cases in which there may be any doubt as to the province to which a matter belongs, the President shall decide.

VII. No new law on any subject within the province of the Conference when composed of Ministers only, proposed during any Conference, shall come into force until it shall have been submitted to the District Synod when Ministers only are present, and until their Reports, if any, shall have been considered, and such law shall have been confirmed by the next Conference when so composed; and no new law on any subject within the province of the Conference when composed both of Ministers and Lay Representatives, proposed during any Conference, shall come into force until it shall have been submitted to the District Synods when Laymen are present, and until their Reports, if any, shall have been considered, and such law shall have been confirmed by the next Conference when so composed.

N.B.—Nothing in this Resolution shall be so construed as to interfere with the rights of the Circuit Quarterly Meetings, as set forth in the *Minutes of Conference*, 1797, vol. i. p. 393; 1852, vol. xii. p. 117.¹ (1877, vol. xx. pp. 419–424.)

ELECTING LAY REPRESENTATIVES BY THE CONFERENCE.

To supplement this Scheme, the Conference of 1879 adopted the following recommendations of a Committee which it had appointed to consider the best method of electing Lay Representatives by the Conference:—

“1. That means be adopted for securing that the voting list of persons nominated shall contain only the names of persons whose nomination is supported by six Members of the Conference.

¹ The rights referred to in this *N.B.* are stated in Chapter X. of Part II. of the present work.

"2. That no person shall be regarded as elected for whom a clear majority of the votes cast is not recorded.

"With a view to the carrying out of these two proposals, the Committee recommend that the following course be adopted:—

- (i.) That a Committee of six scrutineers be appointed.
- (ii.) That for the purposes of the nomination a paper shall be prepared and distributed, which will provide for the following entries to be made in it without declaring aloud in the Conference the names of the persons nominated:—
 - (a) The name of the person nominated.
 - (b) The name of the person nominating.
 - (c) The names of six persons who support the nomination.

N.B.—The names of these supporters are to be obtained by the persons nominating.
- (iii.) That these nomination-papers be collected by the scrutineers; and that from papers which have been duly filled up, they shall prepare a voting-sheet to be printed after the manuscript has been read in the Conference.
- (iv.) That the manuscript shall supply the names of both the persons nominated and persons nominating them, but not the names of the persons supporting the several nominations.
- (v.) That the printed voting papers shall contain only the names of the persons nominated.
- (vi.) That in counting votes the scrutineers shall reject every voting paper upon which more than six names are marked for election.
- (vii.) That, having counted the votes, the scrutineers shall report to the Conference the names of persons for whom a clear majority of the votes cast has been recorded, and that such persons be thereupon declared to have been duly elected.
- (viii.) That in the event of less than six persons being elected by this first voting, a second vote shall be taken in the following manner: Double the number, minus one, of the names necessary to complete the election of six persons, shall in that event be submitted to the Conference by the scrutineers (or if only one remains to be elected, *two* names), the said names being those of the persons who have obtained in the first voting the highest number of votes, but less than half the total number of votes cast.
- (ix.) That these names shall be submitted to the Conference on a second voting-paper, and from among them the number necessary to complete the election of six persons shall be chosen (1880, pp. 352, 353).

VACANCIES AMONG LAY MEMBERS OF THE CONFERENCE.

The Conference confirms the provisional Resolution as follows:—

Connexional Treasurers.—If any Treasurer of a Connexional Fund be unable to attend the Conference, the Committee of the Fund in question shall, at its last meeting previous to the Conference, elect one of its Lay Members to represent the Fund at that Conference, in the place of the Treasurer (1897, p. 340).

Conference Representatives.—In the event of one or more of the Eighteen Laymen elected by previous Conferences being unable to attend the Conference, he or they shall inform the President at least one week before the date fixed for the commencement of the Representative Session. The President shall furnish the information to the Secretaries of the Nomination Committee, and that Committee shall nominate a person or persons to fill the vacancies thus created; such nominations being submitted to the Conference at the commencement of the Representative Session, which shall be requested to elect the person or persons so nominated.

In the event of a vacancy arising by appointment to a Connexional Treasurership, or by death, nominations shall be made in the same way; and the person elected shall, as regards retirement and re-election, be subject to the Rules applying to the person whose place he takes (1897, p. 340).

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CHAPTER III

THE CONFERENCE: ORDER OF SESSIONS—PROCEDURE AND RULES OF DEBATE—ADMISSION TO THE CONFERENCE CHAPEL—CONFERENCE REPORTING—STATIONING COMMITTEE—COMMITTEE ON APPEALS—NOMINATION COMMITTEE.

ORDER OF PASTORAL AND REPRESENTATIVE SESSIONS OF THE CONFERENCE.

CERTAIN practical inconveniences having arisen with regard to matters which came within the province of the Conference both in its Pastoral and Representative Sessions, in consequence of the Pastoral Session having concluded its sittings before the Representative Session assembled, the Conference of 1887 deemed it desirable that, if possible, questions of Policy and Finance, within the province of Ministers and Laymen acting conjointly, should be settled before the Ministerial appointments affected by such questions are confirmed; and referred the matter to the Committee on Conference Procedure to consider and report thereon (1887, p. 272).

The Conference of 1888 in its Pastoral Session decided that, as the change proposed by the Committee involved an alteration in the present mode of electing Ministers, both to the Legal Conference and to the offices of President and Secretary, and also affected the arrangement agreed upon in the Scheme of Lay Representation in the Conference adopted in 1877, the proposal be deferred for further consideration.

The question was accordingly deferred in order that it might

be considered by the District Synods in May when Ministers only were present, and also when Ministers and Laymen were present (1888, pp. 297, 298).

The Conference of 1889 in its Pastoral and Representative Sessions received the Report of the Special Committee on the Relation of the Sessions founded on the recommendations of the District Synods, and resolved—

1. All questions of Policy and Finance within the province of the Conference in its Representative Session shall be settled before the Ministerial appointments affected by such questions are confirmed.

2. The Representative Session shall commence on the Monday following the first Lord's Day after the opening of the Conference, and the discussion and confirmation of the Stations by the Pastoral Session shall be reserved until after the close of the Representative Session.

3. All questions which have to be brought before the Representative Session of the Conference, and are also within the province of the Pastoral Session, may, if thought desirable, be considered and discussed during the first week of such Pastoral Session, but not voted upon until after the meeting of the Representative Session.

4. If any Resolutions shall be adopted by the Pastoral and Representative Sessions respectively, which, in the judgment of the President, are in conflict with each other, such Resolutions shall not be confirmed by the Legal Conference, but shall be reported accordingly to the respective Sessions of the next Conference (1889, p. 291).

Certain Memorials from District Synods having been presented to the Conference of 1896 in its Representative Session, against the existing Order of Sessions and in favour of a change, a Committee was appointed to consider the objections which were urged against the present Order, and whether any change was desirable; and if so, to advise the Conference as to the nature of such change (1896, p. 322). The Committee which met during the year recommended a change in the Order of Sessions so that the business of the Representative Session should precede that of the Pastoral Session.

The Conference of 1897 in its Representative Session received the Report of the Committee, and resolved—

1. In view of the fact that the Pastoral Session has not yet had an opportunity of voting on the question of the proposed change in the Order of Conference Sessions, and in view of the many grave difficulties involved in the proposal, the Conference appoints a Committee to reconsider the whole question, and especially to consider whether the necessities of the case may not be met by some rearrangement of the course of Conference proceedings under the present Order of Sessions.

2. The Committee is at liberty to confer with the Committee of the Pastoral Session, to which is referred the same subject, at such time and place as the President of the Conference shall determine (1897, p. 336).

The Conference in its Pastoral Session also resolved—

1. The Conference appoints a Committee to consider the whole question of the Order of the Sessions of the Conference, and especially whether the necessities of the case may not be met by some rearrangement of the course of Conference proceedings under the present Order of Sessions.

2. This Committee is at liberty to confer with the Committee of the Representative Session, to which is referred the same subject, at such time and place as the President of the Conference shall determine (1897, p. 242).

The Committee met and conferred together in accordance with the above Resolutions; and at the Conference of 1898 the Representative Session, upon the receipt of the Report of the Committee which was in favour of the proposed change, resolved—

1. That no mere modification of the business of the Conference, with a view to save time, will meet the requirements of the case.

2. That a change in the Order of the Sessions is desirable.

3. The Conference refers the question of the method of constituting the Legal Conference, and of nominating the President and Secretary, to the Conference in its Pastoral Session (1898, p. 355).

The Pastoral Session of the same Conference received the Report of the Committee, and also the Resolutions adopted by the Representative Session on the Order of Sessions, and resolved—

1. The Conference in its Pastoral Session accepts the decision of the Conference in its Representative Session, that the Representative Session precede the Pastoral Session.

2. The Pastoral Session is of opinion that the reserved questions should still be reserved, and the formal constitution of the Legal Conference and the nomination of the President and Secretary should continue to be a part of the business transacted by the Conference when composed of Ministers only.

3. The Conference appoints a Committee to sit during the year to consider all details of arrangement rendered necessary by the alteration in the Order of the Sessions of the Conference, including the formal constitution of the Legal Conference and the election of the President and Secretary; and to report first to the Pastoral Session and then to the Representative Session of the next Conference (1898, p. 252).

In the event of the Conference of 1899 adopting the Recommendations of the Committee appointed by the Pastoral Session of the last Conference, its Provisional Resolutions will have to be submitted to the District Synods, and if approved by a majority of them, will have to be confirmed by the Conference of 1900. See pp. 40, 41.

THE ORDER AND FORM OF CONFERENCE BUSINESS.

The Conference, in 1889, having provisionally adopted the "Order and Form of Conference Business" contained in the Minutes for that year (pp. 291-300), directed that it should be submitted to the District Synods when Ministers only were present, and when Ministers and Laymen were present; and that their Reports, if any, should be considered by the next Conference, both in its Pastoral and Representative Sessions.

In 1890, having received the Reports of the District Synods, the Conference confirmed its Resolution relating to the "Order and Form of Conference Business," and directed that it should be printed in the *Agenda* for the next year (1890, pp. 290, 291).

See *Agenda* for each year. See p. 77.

DEATHS OF MINISTERS AND PREACHERS ON TRIAL.

1. The consideration of the Records of the Deceased Brethren shall be regarded and observed as a strictly Religious Service;

and whilst this solemn business is being transacted, no Committees of the Conference shall meet.

2. The Obituaries of deceased Ministers, received by the District Synods, shall be revised by a Special Committee, to be appointed at the preceding Conference.

3. The Obituaries thus revised shall be printed for the use of the Conference, under the direction of the Special Committee; and the official reading of these Records shall be discontinued.

4. The Obituary Notices of Ministers who have died since the May District Synods shall be revised by the Special Committee; and, if possible, be printed and presented at the same time as those which have been submitted to the District Synods.

5. The Conference shall, as a rule, transact this solemn part of its business on the Tuesday morning of the third week of its Sessions.

6. The List of the names of Deceased Ministers shall be read by the Secretary of the Conference (1891, p. 230).

7. On the decease of any Minister of an Affiliated Conference, who has a right of return to this Country, an Obituary shall be inserted in the Minutes of the Yearly Conference (1890, p. 211). See p. 122.

CONFERENCE SACRAMENTAL SERVICE.

“The Conference Sacramental Service shall be held at the opening of the Representative Session, in lieu of the ordinary devotional exercises, and the Conference Arrangements Committee is instructed to make the necessary provision for the Service” (1898, p. 360).

ROTATION OF CONFERENCES.

“The Conference resolves that, subject to local convenience, the rotation of Conferences shall be as follows:—London, Burslem, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Manchester, Camborne, Sheffield, Bristol, Nottingham, London, Bradford, Cardiff, Liverpool, Plymouth, Leeds, Birmingham, Hull” (1898, p. 354).

CONFERENCE PROCEDURE AND RULES OF DEBATE.

CONFERENCE PROCEDURE.¹

The Conference resolves that the following shall be the Order of Business in the Conference, day by day:—

1. Reading the daily record.
2. Communications, letters, etc.
3. Any notice of motion not arising out of current business.
 - i. Notices of motion shall be presented not later than the second day of the Conference ; but such notices may be given subsequently, if occasion arise.
 - ii. No motion on any subject not before the Conference in the ordinary course of its business can be considered until after twenty-four hours' notice thereof has been given.
4. Reports of Committees.
 - i. Nothing in this Rule shall prevent the reception of the Report of a Committee at any other time when the Conference may think it necessary or desirable.
 - ii. All Reports of District and other Committees, and all Official Documents, shall be read from the platform.
 - iii. The President shall nominate for the consideration of the Conference all Committees, except as it may be otherwise ordered, either specially or in the standing regulations of the Conference.
5. The Questions as they follow in the "Order and Form of Business of the Conference."
6. Any other matter which it may be necessary or convenient to deal with before the Conference adjourns.

RULES OF DEBATE.

Preamble.—Whereas much of the business of the Conference has been, and should continue to be, conducted in the form of Conversations, Rules 10 and 18 shall not apply, except when a formal resolution has been duly placed before the Conference.

1. When any Member wishes to address the Conference, he shall rise and address the President, but shall not proceed until the President calls upon him.
2. No Member shall remain standing during a discussion, except the Member addressing the President.

¹ With a view to facilitating the dispatch of the Conference business, there shall be two Sessions daily (1886, p. 207).

3. No Member shall speak more than once on the same question without leave of the Conference, except as provided for in the Preamble.

4. The mover of a substantive resolution shall have a right of reply, but not the mover of an amendment. The reply must be limited to answering the arguments advanced against the motion.

5. Every motion and resolution shall be presented in writing by the proposer, at the time the proposition is made, and shall be immediately handed to the Secretary.

6. Motions of which due notice has been given shall, unless in special cases, be dealt with under the Departments to which they relate or refer.

7. When a resolution has been moved and seconded, it shall not be withdrawn without the consent of the Conference.

8. The seconder of a resolution may reserve his speech.

9. A Report of a Committee officially presented shall be received without motion; but its adoption, as a whole or by clauses, shall be moved and seconded.

10. No motion or resolution on any other subject shall be submitted until the one under consideration is disposed of.

This may be done by withdrawal (Rule 7), adoption, or rejection, or by one of the following motions:—

i. Amendment of the subject-matter, either by varying the terms, omission, or addition.

(a) Should an amendment be carried, it becomes the substantive motion, and thereon an amendment may be proposed. But if no further amendment is proposed, the amendment (which has become the substantive motion) shall be put without further discussion.

Should the amendment be lost, and no further amendment be proposed, the original motion shall be put without further discussion.

(b) No second amendment shall be submitted until the first is disposed of, though any speaker may give notice of his intention to propose a second amendment if the first should not be carried.

ii. Any of the following motions, which would be in order whether a motion or a motion with amendment were before the Conference:—

(a) “The previous question”—which shall be put to the Conference in the following form:—“That the resolution (or resolution and amendment) before the Conference be not put.” This may be discussed concurrently with such resolution or amendment.

If "the previous question" be carried, the resolution or amendment before the Conference cannot be put. If it be not carried, the discussion may proceed.

(b) "The Order of the Day," *i.e.* that the next business as ordered by the Conference be now taken.

(c) The postponement of the question either to a definite time or to a time to be hereafter fixed.

(d) Reference to a committee.

iii. Adjournment.

(a) Of the debate.

(b) Of the Conference.

11. A motion "That the vote be now taken" may be presented by any Member; but no discussion shall be allowed thereon. If the motion should be carried by a majority of not less than two-thirds of those voting, the President shall forthwith call upon the Member, if any, who may have the right of reply, and immediately thereafter shall put the question.

12. At the close of a discussion the President shall request all Members to be seated, and the resolution, or resolution and amendment, shall be read before being put to the vote. The vote on the amendment shall be taken first.

No Member shall speak after the President has risen to put "the question" to the Conference, until a vote has been taken.

13. A motion to rescind any resolution of the Conference can be submitted only after notice duly given.

14. The President shall call to order any speaker who departs from the question, or violates the courtesies of debate.

15. The President shall decide all questions of order.

16. A Member may rise to a point of order when he deems the rules of debate, or the regulations of the Conference, to have been violated. He must submit the "point of order" to the President. Upon the question of order being raised, the Member addressing the Conference shall take his seat, and retain it until the "point of order" is decided.

17. A Member who thinks himself misrepresented by a speaker may, by the indulgence of the Conference, interrupt the speaker to correct the misstatement; but he must not enter into argument.

18. Questions which relate to the rights and privileges of the Conference, or of individual Members thereof, or to the order of business, shall have precedence (1888, pp. 292-295).

ADMISSION TO THE CONFERENCE CHAPEL.

The deliberations of the Conference when consisting of Ministers and Laymen shall be confined to the duly appointed

Members of that Conference; but any Minister permitted by the District Synod to attend the Conference when composed of Ministers only, may be present during the Sessions of the Conference when composed of Ministers and Laymen.

In regard to other persons, not being either Representatives or Ministers attending the Pastoral Session, admission shall be regulated as follows:—

A Committee, consisting of the President and the Secretary of the Conference, with three other Ministers and three Laymen, shall be annually appointed by the preceding Conference, to which shall be entrusted the decision in all cases of application for admission upon the following lines:—

“1. One hundred tickets, bearing the signature of the President, admitting to the gallery of the Conference Chapel during all the sittings of the Representative Session, shall be reserved for Members of Connexional Committees, and for persons who state in writing that they desire to be present regularly throughout the week.

“2. To meet the case of those who desire only to attend occasionally, day-tickets, differently coloured for each day, shall be provided; the number of which shall be regulated by the available space in the Conference Chapel.

“3. Each ticket, of either sort, shall bear the name of the holder, and shall not be transferable.

“The foregoing Regulations shall apply equally to men and women (1893, p. 323).

“4. The Committee is instructed to reserve the front seats in the gallery of the Conference Chapel for Representatives and Ministers” (1894, p. 319).

CONFERENCE REPORTING.

“1. Reporters, appointed by the Newspapers or the News Agencies, shall be admitted to the Representative and Con-joint Sessions of the Conference.

“2. Suitable seats shall be allocated to them by the Conference Committee of Arrangements.

“3. Special tickets of admission shall be issued to the Representatives of Newspapers and News Agencies, so far as the space at disposal will allow. These tickets shall contain the dates from and to which the tickets are available; and shall have printed upon them the following words: ‘This ticket is issued on the express condition that the attendance of Reporters shall be suspended at any time when the President may so direct.’

“4. Applications for such tickets shall be made to the Chairman of the Conference Arrangements Committee” (1890, p. 296).

5. The Conference reaffirms its decision that subjects discussed in Conference in answer to the question, “Is there any objection to any of our Ministers or Preachers on Trial?” are to be regarded as strictly private and confidential (1898, p. 253).

THE STATIONING COMMITTEE.

Constitution of the Committee:—

1. The Stationing Committee consists of a Representative of each District in Great Britain, elected by the united vote of the Ministers in Full Connexion and Laymen in the Annual District Synod (1791, vol. i. p. 256; 1840, vol. ix. p. 105; 1870, vol. xviii. p. 154).

2. The President and Secretary of the Conference, who attend the Committee in their official character, and cannot, therefore, represent any particular District (1824, vol. v. p. 520).

3. In the second and any subsequent sitting of the Committee, when the President and Secretary of the Conference for that year have been chosen, the President and Secretary of the preceding year continue to be Members of the Committee (1824, vol. v. p. 520; 1888, p. 316).

4. One of the General Secretaries of the Missionary Society shall, from year to year, be a Member of the Stationing

Committee (1823, vol. v. p. 426), together with a Representative of the Home Missionary Committee, and the House Governor or one of the Tutors of each Branch of the Theological Institution (*Journal*, 1837, 1845, 1861).

5. One of the Assistant Secretaries of the Conference shall attend the Stationing Committee to assist the Secretary; but he shall not be considered a Member of the Committee (*Journal*, 1857).

Preparations for the Committee :—

1. As soon as possible after the Annual District Synod, each Representative shall be furnished by the Secretary of the Conference with a list of all Ministers for whom arrangements have not been made, and of all Circuits in like case; the information necessary to compile this list being sent by the Representatives to the Secretary of the Conference not later than 1st June; such lists to contain complete information, and to be regarded as private and confidential (1892, p. 218).

2. The Representative of each District shall send to the Secretary of the Conference, not later than 27th June in each year, upon a Schedule to be provided, complete lists of—(i.) The invitations accepted by Ministers in his District; (ii.) the arrangements provisionally made for the appointment of Ministers to Circuits in his District; (iii.) all Ministers in his District for whom no arrangement has been made; and (iv.) a list of all Ministers to be transferred from the Foreign to the Home Stations shall, at the same time, be furnished by the Missionary Secretaries to the Secretary of the Conference.

From these lists the Secretary of the Conference shall compile, and cause to be printed in a convenient form for use in the Stationing Committee, a Preliminary Draft of Stations, embodying all arrangements thus provisionally made; and also a separate list of all Ministers for whom provisional arrangements have not been made; and a copy of these shall be furnished to each Member of the Stationing

Committee, in London, on the Monday before the Meeting of that Committee (1875, vol. xix. p. 709).

Regulations concerning the Committee :—

(1) The Stationing Committee shall, from year to year, hold its first Session in London. (2) The appointments made shall not, as heretofore, be printed day by day. (3) The Stations shall be printed in the Conference town. (4) The First Draft of Stations shall be an absolutely confidential document until the Representatives' Copies are ready for the post. (5) Should any Minister be officially reported as under Discipline and suspended until the Conference, his name shall not appear on the First Draft of Stations. (6) All Students who are leaving the Institution, and are eligible for appointment, shall be entitled to a copy of the First Draft and of the Final Draft of Stations. (7) Each Representative shall send to the Secretary of the Conference Arrangements Committee two sets of addressed wrappers, for the First and the Final Draft, for the Ministers and Circuit Stewards in his District, and for six other Laymen—Members of the District Synod; the cost of which shall be refunded by the Conference Arrangements Committee (1888, p. 317). (8) The Foreign Stations shall be printed in the First Draft of Stations (*Journal*, 1859).

For *Term of Ministerial Appointment, Exceptional Cases, Reappointment to Circuits, Appointment to Circuits in the Same Town, Claims of Conference Towns, and Probationers who have been Supplies*, see pp. 116, 117.

For *Supernumeraries returning to the Full Work*, see p. 135.

Times of Meeting :—

(1) Previously to each Conference the Stationing Committee shall meet in London in connexion with the Annual Meeting of the Home Mission Committee. (2) If necessary, the Committee may meet again in the Conference town on the Monday afternoon or evening preceding the Conference. (3) The Committee may conveniently meet on the Saturday afternoon

of the first week of the Conference. (4) The Committee is appointed to meet on the Saturday after the close of the Representative Session of the Conference (1897, pp. 469, 472, 476).

Superintendents :—

“In the opinion of the Conference, it is desirable that only such Ministers as are in Full Connexion should be appointed to the office of Superintendent” (1886, p. 204).

Senior Ministers and Superintendency :—

“Any Senior Minister in health and vigour, who wishes to be relieved of the cares of the Superintendency, and is willing to take the second or third position in a Circuit, with the conditions of that position, may be so appointed” (1891, p. 229).

Channel Islands District :—

For the interchanges of Ministers between the Channel Islands District and the French Conference, see *Minutes*, 1876, vol. xx. pp. 146, 147 ; 1884, p. 226 ; 1889, p. 203.

Stations in Conference :—

“1. The Stations shall be presented twice in the Conference, for a first and a final reading.

“2. In the first reading of the Stations, the names of the Ministers shall not be read out one by one, but the Secretary shall call the names of the Circuits, and any Member of the Conference shall be at liberty to question, or raise a discussion upon, any proposed appointment. In the final reading, the usage shall be observed of making changes only when all parties are agreed (1892, p. 218).

“3. After the first reading of the Stations, the Committee shall, when it is deemed expedient, retire for the further consideration of the Stations” (1888, p. 317).

Numbering of Circuits :—

“1. Except those in which no Minister's House is provided, all Stations appearing in the Minutes shall be numbered.

"2. The Minister appointed to any Station without a number is the Superintendent, and is therefore entitled to preside in the Quarterly Meetings and in the Trustees' Meetings; but he shall, as heretofore, act under the direction of the Chairman of the District" (1886, p. 204). See pp. 172, 173.

University Degrees:—

"1. For the future, no Minister shall be entitled to have his Degree printed in the Minutes until the approval of the Probationers' Examination Committee has been obtained.

"2. In the case of every Degree printed in the Minutes, the source of the Degree shall be stated, except in the case of that of Doctor in Divinity received before the Conference of 1895.

"3. Degrees obtained from a Foreign University, by means of Examinations conducted in this country, shall not be printed in the Minutes" (1893, pp. 227, 228; 1895, p. 225).

COMMITTEE ON APPEALS AND OTHER CASES.

The arrangement respecting the appointment of a Committee on Appeals and other cases was adopted in the year 1873. It is as follows:—

At each Conference the President shall nominate, not later than the second day, a Committee of twenty-one Members of the Conference, to whom shall be referred, without discussion (1) all cases requiring further inquiry touching the character of Ministers or Preachers on trial, immediately after the reading of the Minutes of District Synods thereupon; (2) or of any notice of Charge or Appeal relating thereto; or (3) for any reason which the Conference may deem sufficient.

Any complainant or appellant, or any person under inquiry, may object to one in three of the members of the said Committee sitting on his case; and the President shall then appoint some other Member of the Conference to act instead of the Member so objected to.

Special cases to be decided upon by the Conference may be referred to the whole Committee; but it shall, for ordinary purposes, be divided into three sections, for each of which a Convener shall be appointed, who shall be responsible for preparing the business of the Committee (1873, vol. xix. p. 202).

APPEALS IN CASES OF DISCIPLINE.

“1. The Conference declares its unalterable resolution to uphold the authority hitherto vested in its District Synods, as intermediate and subordinate Courts of Inquiry and Appeal, both for the Ministers and the People; whilst, to all parties duly respecting that authority, it still leaves unfettered the right of an ultimate appeal to the Conference” (1851, vol. xi. p. 469).

“2. As a general principle, before revising or altering any recommendation of a District Synod, the Chairman of the District involved should be heard by the Committee to whom the subject is referred” (*Journal*, 1877).

“3. All Final Appeals in matters of Discipline relating either to Ministers or Members shall remain within the exclusive province of the Conference when consisting of Ministers only” (1877, vol. xx. p. 422).

“4. No Appeal shall be received after the completion of the year following the Conference immediately succeeding the act of discipline, except by special decision of the Conference” (1891, p. 229).

THE NOMINATION COMMITTEE.

The constitution and duties of the *Nomination Committee* were defined by the Conference of 1881, which also provisionally adopted some general Resolutions respecting Mixed Committees of Connexional Departments, and other Connexional Committees. The Minutes bearing on these subjects are given, *in extenso*, in Part III. Chapter XV. pp. 437-459; but the following are the Regulations which have reference to the constitution and functions of the *Nomination Committee*:—

1. The Conference shall annually appoint the Members of each Mixed Committee of a Connexional Department (not being hereinafter described as *ex-officio* Members) after receiving the Report of a Nomination Committee, which shall be appointed and shall act in the manner hereinafter provided.

The General Treasurers of the several Funds, and the Local Treasurers of Executive Committees, shall be appointed by the Conference after receiving the Nominations of the Committees of the several Funds.

2. The Nomination Committee shall consist of—

- (a) The eighteen Laymen appointed by the previous Conference in its Representative Session to be Members of the Conference then next ensuing.
- (b) Eighteen Ministers to be appointed annually by the Conference in its Pastoral Session.
- (c) Two Secretaries (one Minister and one Layman), who shall be annually appointed by the Conference to act upon the Nomination Committee of the Conference ensuing.

3. The Lay Secretary is directed, in conjunction with the Ministerial Secretary, to prepare lists of persons recommended by the Committee for service on the several Connexional Committees.

4. It shall be the duty of the Secretaries (a) to convene the meeting of the Nomination Committee, and to summon to it persons entitled to attend its meeting; (b) to receive from the Committee of each Connexional Department a list of persons, *ex officio* and otherwise, who are proposed for appointment upon it by the Conference; (c) to present the lists so received to the Nomination Committee; (d) to keep the record of the proceedings of the Committee, and (e) to report to the Conference on its behalf.

5. The Nomination Committee shall meet previous to the Meeting of the Representative Conference. At that Meeting the President of the Conference shall preside, or, in his absence, some ex-President or other Minister whom he shall depute; and the Secretary, or some other deputed representative, of each Connexional Department shall attend to give such information as may be necessary.

6. The Nomination Committee shall consider the lists sent forward by the several Committees of Connexional Departments; it shall take care that the constitution of each Committee nominated is in accordance with the Regulations of the Conference; it shall have power to amend the lists sent forward, as it may deem desirable, and to make any changes in reference to Ministers recommended for nomination which the action of the Ministerial Conference may have rendered necessary, but only in cases of necessity shall it make any change in reference to either the Ministerial or Lay nominees of a District Synod, and every such change shall be reported to the Conference (1881, pp. 271, 272).

7. The Conference directs that all lists of Committees which are to be considered by the Nomination Committee shall, as far

as possible, be printed in the Conference *Agenda* : the names of new Members being printed in italics, and those of Members nominated for reappointment by a four-fifths majority distinguished by an asterisk ; care being taken to give the Christian name and postal address of each Layman (1890, p. 292).

N.B.—A complete list of the Lay Members of each Connexional Committee, with their postal addresses, shall be handed by the Secretaries of the Nomination Committee to the Secretary of the Conference for insertion in the *Minutes* (1892, p. 310).

8. The Secretaries of Departments shall duly inform all *new* Members, Ministerial and Lay, of their appointment upon Connexional Committees (1882, pp. 383-385 ; 1890, p. 292 ; 1895, pp. 317-319).

The Nomination and Constitution of Mixed Connexional Committees is given entire in Part III. Chapter XV. pp. 437-459.

PRESIDENT'S POWER TO NOMINATE COMMITTEES.

The President shall nominate for the consideration of the Conference all Committees, except as it may be otherwise ordered either specially or in the Standing Regulations of the Conference (1888, p. 295).

OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS.

See *Minutes* for each year.

CHAPTER IV

THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE
IN THE INTERVAL BETWEEN ITS ASSEMBLING — DUTIES OF
THE EX-PRESIDENT — PROVISION FOR THE CASE OF THE
DEATH, OR PROLONGED ILLNESS, OF THE PRESIDENT —
DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY OF THE CONFERENCE IN THE
INTERVAL BETWEEN ITS ASSEMBLING.

IMPORTANT duties devolve on the PRESIDENT during his year of office, and powers corresponding to those duties are entrusted to him. It is customary for him to preside in all the leading Connexional Committees. He is appointed the Delegate to the Irish Conference. He is also appointed to visit Scotland, for the purpose of promoting the Missionary cause. He is appointed to attend the Annual Meeting of the Welsh Wesleyan Methodist Assembly in Wales. Many public services, not expressly required by the Conference, are usually undertaken by him, at the earnest request of our Ministers and people, as far as his health will permit.

It may be added that, according to a Resolution adopted in 1825, a junior Preacher is stationed with the President, “to assist him in his official correspondence, etc., and to supply his place in his Circuit during his official journeys, or other unavoidable public engagements” (vol. vi. p. 66).

POWERS AND PRIVILEGES OF THE PRESIDENT.

“The President shall have the privilege and power of two Members in all acts of the Conference during his presidency, and such other powers, privileges, and authorities as the Conference shall from time to time see fit to entrust into his hands” (*Deed of Declaration*). See p. 467.

In cases of emergency, the President may give permission to Ministers to reside abroad (1892, p. 218).

Special Duties.—Among the special duties devolving upon the President, the following may be particularly mentioned:—

1. *Power to supply Vacancies.*—The List of Reserve of accepted Candidates for the Ministry is placed in his hands, and he has power to call out any person from that list to supply a vacancy in a Circuit caused by death, or by a Preacher desisting from travelling or being placed under suspension, “and to sanction any change of Preachers which it may be necessary to make in the intervals of the Conference” (1797, vol. i. p. 395; 1807, vol. ii. p. 406). In the same manner the President has power to call out any person from the List of Reserve as a temporary Supply in the case of the serious and protracted illness of a Minister; but it is expressly provided that the application to him for such a supply must be made through the Chairman of the District; and the Chairman is to satisfy himself, by personal inquiry, that a local Supply cannot be obtained. (For *Supplies*, see *Minutes, Standing Orders*, Part I.)

2. *Power to attend Synods and visit Circuits.*—The President is empowered “to sanction any change of Preachers which it may be necessary to make in the intervals of the Conference; and to assist at any District Synod, if applied to for that purpose, by the Chairman of the District, or by a majority of the Superintendents in such District.” He has a right, also, “if written to by any who are concerned, to visit any Circuit, and to inquire into their affairs with respect to Methodism; and, in union with the District Synod, to redress any grievance” (1797, vol. i. p. 395).

3. *Ex-officio Chairman of the District, and of Connexional Committees.*—The President of the Conference is always, *ex officio*, Chairman of the District in which he is stationed (1812, vol. iii. p. 294). The President is, *ex officio*, a Member of every Committee of a Connexional Department (1881, p. 270).

4. *In the Trial of a Chairman.*—In case of any complaint

arising against the Chairman of a District, in reference either to his personal or his official conduct, the accuser, after duly apprising the Chairman of his intention, shall place his complaint in the hands of the President of the Conference for the time being, who shall have authority (if he deem such a course necessary or expedient) to summon a specially constituted Meeting, and to place the Chairman on his trial before them (1894, p. 217).

For Regulations in reference to the *Trial of a Chairman*, see pp. 160, 161.

5. *Power in case the Chair of any District is rendered vacant.*—It is further provided that “in case the Chair of any District in Great Britain” should “be rendered vacant by the death or incapacity of the Chairman, or otherwise, the duties and responsibilities of the Chairman shall, *pro tempore*, devolve upon the President of the Conference for the time being, who shall take steps, either by convening the Ministers of the District, or by correspondence with them, to obtain their suffrages for the Minister among themselves who is deemed by them best qualified to fill the vacant office; and shall then declare and appoint the Minister thus selected to be the Chairman of that District till the ensuing Conference” (1867, vol. xvii. pp. 156, 157).

6. *The Conference Plan.*—The plan for the preaching appointments at the Conference, prepared by the Superintendents of the Circuits in which the Conference shall, from year to year, assemble, is to be submitted to the President for his approbation, and to be issued as sanctioned by him not later than June 15th in each year (1821, vol. v. p. 252; 1827, vol. vi. p. 291; 1897, p. 361).

(1) “The President shall be expected to preach in the forenoon of the first Sunday after the commencement of the Conference, and the ex-President in the evening of that day; but the Sermons shall not, in future, be designated official Sermons” (*Journal*, 1821; 1873; 1890, pp. 213, 426).

(2) "The Morning Service shall be read in the Chapel in which the Conference is assembled when the Sermon of the President is delivered" (1840, vol. ix. p. 105)

7. *Pastoral Address*.—The President shall have authority to appoint one of the Preachers to prepare a draft of the Pastoral Address to the Societies ; for which he shall suggest the topics (*Journal*, 1841).

8. *Power to grant Permission for Sale of Trust Property*.—“(1) If the sale of a Chapel or other Trust Property should be deemed expedient in the interval between one Conference and another, the President for the time being is authorised, on behalf of the Conference, to affix his signature to the document giving permission to sell, provided that each case be first certified to him as approved by the Chapel Committee. (2) All sales of Trust Property which shall be duly sanctioned shall be entered in the *Journal of the Conference*” (1866, vol. xvi. p. 569).

9. *Power to sign Application to the Charity Commissioners*.—“The Conference empowers the President for the time being to affix his signature to any petition or application to the Charity Commissioners for the exercise of their powers in all cases in which such signature may be necessary, provided that the application be first certified and recommended to him by the Chapel Committee” (1886, p. 225). See p. 319.

DUTIES OF THE EX-PRESIDENT.

1. The ex-President takes the chair at the first Session of the Conference, if so requested by the newly-elected President (1892, p. 217).

2. *An ex-officio Member of the Stationing Committee and of all Connexional Committees*.—The ex-President is a Member of all the sittings of the Stationing Committee during the Conference at which he vacates the office of President (1824, vol. v. p. 500 ; 1888, p. 316). The ex-President is, *ex officio*, a Member of all Connexional Committees (1881, p. 270).

3. *With regard to Ministers who have had Supplies*.—The

retiring President shall furnish to the Conference, on the second day of its Session, a list of all Ministers who have had Supplies during any part of the preceding year, with the date in each case on which the Supply was sent and withdrawn. And on receiving this list, the Conference shall appoint a Committee to inquire whether these Ministers are physically competent to take a Circuit (1889, p. 309).

For *Supplies*, see *Minutes, Standing Orders*, Part I.

N.B.—*Supernumeraries returning to Full Work.*—In all cases where it is recommended that Supernumerary Ministers shall return to the full work, inquiry and report shall be made by the Committee appointed at the Conference to examine the cases of those Ministers who have had Supplies during the year (1897, p. 244).

4. *With regard to the List of Reserve.*—(1) The retiring President shall furnish to the Committee on Transfers and Reports on Probationers a Report as to the health and fitness for our work of those Probationers who have been during the year on his List of Reserve; the Committee to report to the Conference (1891, p. 339).

(2) On the second day of each Conference the retiring President shall furnish a list of the names and addresses of the Preachers on his List of Reserve, with particulars of their employment during the year. The list shall contain (1) the names of those sent out as Supplies by the President, with the date of appointment; (2) the names of those employed under private arrangement (1892, p. 328).

For *List of Reserve*, see *Minutes, Standing Orders*, Part I.

5. *Chairman of the Memorials Committee.*—The ex-President year by year shall be *ex-officio* Chairman of the Committee on Memorials and Suggestions (1895, p. 216).

6. *Charge to Newly-ordained Ministers.*—The President of the preceding Conference shall address to the newly-ordained Ministers, in the presence of the congregation, an appropriate charge (1813, vol. iii. p. 389).

PROVISION FOR THE CASE OF THE DEATH, OR PROLONGED
ILLNESS, OF THE PRESIDENT.

7. *In the event of the Death of a President.*—To provide for the case of the *death* of a President during his year of office, it was resolved in the year 1816, that “in every such case, *the last surviving President* shall immediately enter again into the office so vacated; and shall be considered, for the remainder of the year, and until the election of a successor at the ensuing Conference, as having all the powers, privileges, and authorities of the Presidency, and as responsible for all its duties” (1816, vol. iv. p. 236).

8. *In case of the severe and continued Illness of a President.*—The arrangement with regard to the death of a President was extended, in the year 1840, to the *severe and continued illness* of a President. It was then resolved “that, in order to provide against the difficulties and inconveniences which may result from the continued affliction of the President of the Conference, in every such case the Regulation which was made in the year 1816 for the case of a President’s dying during the year of his Presidency, shall be applied according to the extent and duration of the exigency; that is to say, on receiving notice from the President of his inability, through indisposition, to discharge the duties of his office, ‘the last surviving President shall be considered as having all the powers, privileges, and authorities of the Presidency, and as responsible for all its duties’” (1840, vol. ix. p. 104).

DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY OF THE CONFERENCE.

The duties of the SECRETARY of the Conference in the interval between its assembling are of considerable importance.

(1) He is responsible for the accuracy of the printed Minutes, as a record of the decisions of the Conference on the subjects to which they relate (1813, vol. iii. p. 388). (2) It devolves on him to prepare the Circulars which the Chairmen of Districts are to send to the Superintendents of Circuits and

to the Lay Members of the District Synod, previously to the Financial and Annual District Synods, specifying the business to be brought forward, and particularly mentioning any subject which the Conference may have referred to the consideration of these meetings. (3) It is customary also for the Secretary of the Conference to address a letter to the Chairman of each District before the Financial and Annual District Synods, calling his attention to the subjects specially remitted by the Conference to the consideration of these Synods respectively. (4) If the Conference should have adopted any new Rule affecting the Societies at large, the Secretary is to mention such Rule in his letter to the Chairman of each District before the Financial District Synod, that the Chairman may call the attention of the Superintendents to it as having to be read at the September Quarterly Meetings (1872, vol. xviii. p. 652). (5) In his letter to the Chairmen of Districts before the May District Synod, he is to mention, in particular, that should special circumstances exist in any District which render another day preferable to the second as that on which the Lay Members shall join the Ministers, the Chairman is left at liberty by the Conference to act on his own discretion in the matter (*Journal*, 1877). (6) It belongs to the Secretary, also, to prepare in the month of March, in each year, the Circular which the President of the Conference addresses, early in April, to the Superintendent of each Circuit, requesting information which must be sent by him to the Financial Secretary of the District before the *twentieth* day of April. In order to avoid discrepancy in statistics furnished to District Synods on the President's Circular, and also to Connexional Departments or District Committees, all Schedules shall be signed by the Superintendent of the Circuit. Except where absolutely necessary, a double return shall not be required (1898, p. 365). (7) Previously to the meeting of the *Stationing Committee*, the Secretary of the Conference has to obtain, by correspondence with the Chairmen of Districts, various particulars respecting the supply of Ministers'

houses, the number of married Ministers who are without houses, and other information which may be necessary for the guidance of that Committee when it assembles. Other duties of the Secretary connected with the Stationing Committee are specified in the Minute cited on p. 61 of the preceding Chapter. (8) The Secretary of the Conference is, *ex officio*, a Member of all Connexional Committees (1881, p. 270). (9) He sends to the Convener of the Memorials Committee a list of matters referred to the consideration of Departments (1890, p. 208).

JOURNAL OF THE CONFERENCE AND DAILY RECORD.

Journal of the Conference.—(1) All Resolutions and Orders touching elections, admissions, expulsions, consents, dispensations, delegations, or appointments and acts whatsoever of the Conference, shall be entered and written in the Journals or Minutes of the Conference, which shall be kept for that purpose, publicly read, and then subscribed by the President and Secretary thereof for the time being, during the time such Conference shall be assembled, and when so entered and subscribed shall be had, taken, received, and be the acts of the Conference, and such entry and subscription as aforesaid shall be had, taken, received, and be evidence of all and every such act of the said Conference and of their said delegates without the aid of any other proof, and whatever shall not be so entered and subscribed as aforesaid shall not be had, taken, received, or be the act of the Conference; and the said President and Secretary are hereby required and obliged to enter and subscribe as aforesaid every act whatever of the Conference (*Deed of Declaration*). See pp. 468, 469. (2) A Journal for each year shall be provided in two parts; and, in order to secure an earlier and more complete record, the sheets of the Journal shall be prepared beforehand, and separately filled up as business advances, duly certified, and immediately bound (*Journal*, 1877).

Daily Record.—(1) A Daily Journal shall be kept by one of the Assistant-Secretaries, comprising an exact record of all the

business of the Conference. (2) The Journal of each day shall be read to the Conference at the first sitting of the day following (*Journal*, 1838).

Daily Record and Journal.—The Conference of 1894 appointed a Committee to consider during the year the best method of keeping the Records and Journal of the Conference, and upon the Report of that Committee it was resolved :—(1) In future it shall not be necessary to write out in full in the Daily Record of the Conference, the Lists, Reports, Resolutions, Suggestions, Minutes, or other matters which are already printed in the Conference *Agenda*, but in each case the entry shall be by reference to the page in the printed volume, such alterations or additions as the Conference may make in what is printed being duly noted ; and that, to insure accuracy, every alteration or addition to any List, Resolution, or other matter shall be entered in the official copy of the *Agenda* when the business in question is before the Conference. (2) Lists of Committees appointed to sit *during the Conference* shall not be re-written in the Daily Record, but the Committee Book shall be preserved with the other official Books ; and in each case a copy of the List shall be furnished to the Convener of the Committee in question. All Lists of Committees appointed to sit *during the year* shall be entered in the Daily Record, as heretofore. (3) Every Resolution of the Conference (including the Reports of Committees) which is not presented in print in the *Agenda* shall be written out as heretofore. (4) The Stations of the Ministers shall not be copied into the Journal by hand, but a printed copy, duly certified as correct by the Secretary of the Conference, shall be bound up with the Journal sheets year by year. With this exception, the keeping of the Journal shall remain as at present (1895, pp. 220, 221).

Form of Entry in the Journal and in the Minutes.—For the Form of Entry in reference to Ministers received into Full Connexion for Foreign Missions, see 1891, pp. 231, 232 ; 1895, pp. 217, 218.

Sale of Trust Property.—All Sales of Trust Property which shall be duly sanctioned shall be entered in the Journal of the Conference (1866, vol. xvi. p. 569).

Conference Agenda.—A copy of the *Agenda* for the Pastoral Session and also for the Representative Session of the Conference is prepared year by year by one of the Assistant-Secretaries.

CUSTODY OF CONNEXIONAL DOCUMENTS.

1. The Conference in 1799 directed that during the intervals of the Conference the Journals should be kept in London (1799, vol. ii. p. 22).

2. In 1882 the Conference resolved, "That in addition to the Journals and Daily Records of the Conference, the Reports of Committees meeting during the Conference, and the Minutes of the several District Synods, which are kept at the Conference Office, the following documents shall also be preserved: The printed *Agenda* of the Conference; the Minutes of the Committee on Memorials and Suggestions from year to year, with the Documents laid before that Committee, and the Resolutions of the Conference thereon; the Reports of any special Committees or Commissions appointed by the Conference; any legal Opinion obtained from time to time by the direction of the Conference; and a Record of all Legacies and Funds left to the Connexion, of the place where the Trust Deeds are deposited, with the names of the Trustees, and the provisions (if any) for the renewal of the Trust; and when the Legacies have been finally disposed of, the Minute Books of the Trustees, showing the arrangements made; with any other Documents, the safe custody of which the Conference may hereafter direct" (1882, pp. 287, 288). A Custodian and Registrar is annually appointed (1897, p. 338). See pp. 163, 164.

THE CONFERENCE PLATFORM.

See *Minutes*, 1887, p. 193; 1892, pp. 312, 313.

CHAPTER V

THE MINISTRY—CANDIDATES—THEOLOGICAL TRAINING— PROBATION—ORDINATION

THE Ministry, in the economy of Wesleyan Methodism, is ordinarily recruited from the ranks of the Local Preachers. Every Candidate must be proposed by the Superintendent of the Circuit to which he belongs, who is bound to satisfy himself, by careful inquiry and personal examination, as well as by hearing him preach, of his fitness for the work of the Ministry. It is required also “that he should have acted as a Local Preacher for some time” (1797, vol. i. p. 677). The Superintendent is also to arrange, if practicable, for his colleagues to hear the Candidate preach; so that the several bodies that have to consider his case may have the advantage of the judgment of all the Ministers of the Circuit (1746, vol. i. p. 31).

CANDIDATES FOR THE MINISTRY.

1. *A Candidate must be approved by the March Quarterly Meeting.*—At the March Quarterly Meeting the Superintendent *nominates* the Candidate; and the *approval* of that Meeting is essential. This principle, affirmed in 1797 (vol. i. pp. 396, 677), is distinctly recognised in the Regulations of the Conference on the subject, adopted in the year 1877:—

(1) The Conference regards it as a settled principle, affirmed in its Minutes (vol. i. p. 677), that every Candidate for the Ministry must be approved by the Circuit Quarterly Meeting.

(2) Before any Superintendent proposes a Preacher to the Conference, as proper to be admitted on trial, such Preacher must be approved by the March Quarterly Meeting (1869, vol. xvii. p. 625).

(3) The Conference believes that this law was intended to secure the concurrent action of the pastorate and the people in the recommendation of Candidates for the Ministry.

(4) The Conference therefore directs that if, in future, any case should occur in which this concurrent action is not secured, the Chairman of the District in which the Circuit is situated shall be held responsible for making special inquiry into the circumstances, and for reporting thereon to the District Synod and the Conference (vol. xx. p. 435).

(5) Any Lay Agent desiring to offer himself as a Candidate for the Ministry must be proposed in and approved by the Quarterly Meeting of the Circuit of which he is a Member, the directions concerning the residential qualification of Candidates for the Ministry being strictly observed (1898, p. 360).

2. *Residential Qualification.*—If a Candidate has not resided two years continuously in the Circuit from which he is recommended, the Superintendent of that Circuit shall obtain a written Report concerning him from his former Superintendent or Superintendents, so as to cover the previous two years, and present the same to the March Quarterly Meeting and to the District Synod (1827, vol. vi. p. 280 ; 1895, p. 344).

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION.

1. No Candidate for the Ministry shall be received who does not possess a fair acquaintance with English Grammar, Orthography, Arithmetic, Geography, and History (1878, p. 187).

2. A preliminary Examination by papers, which shall be prepared each year by the Tutors of the several Branches of the Theological Institution in turn, shall be conducted by a Sub-Committee before the Session of the District Synod, who shall value the answers of the Candidates ; the Report of their valuation to be sent to the District Synod concerned. This Sub-Committee shall be appointed by the Conference. The answers shall be written in the presence of the Superintendents of the Circuits by which the Candidates are recommended, or of one or more other Ministers (1890, pp. 199, 200).

3. Candidates who have matriculated at the London University or have passed an equivalent entrance Examination at any other University in the United Kingdom, or have passed the Oxford or Cambridge Senior Local Examination, or obtained a Queen's Scholarship as Candidates for admission into a Training College, are exempt from the preliminary Examination (*Journal*, 1880 ; *Minutes*, 1893, p. 207 ; 1895, p. 204).

4. No Candidate shall be excused from the preliminary Examination on the ground that he has passed it in a former year (1885, p. 175).

5. In order to secure, as far as practicable, uniformity of valuation, figures showing the number of marks obtainable by a complete answer shall be placed at the end of each question ; and no Candidate shall be considered to have passed a satisfactory Examination who does not gain one-fourth of the maximum number of marks allotted to the whole of the papers (1879, p. 193).

6. No Candidate who has failed to obtain the minimum number of marks in the preliminary Examination shall undergo the usual Examination by the District Synod, unless, in the judgment of the Synod, he possesses such special gifts as to justify an exceptional procedure (1881, p. 201).

DISTRICT SYNOD EXAMINATIONS.

1. No person is deemed eligible for examination at any District Synod as a Candidate . . . unless his Superintendent be able to certify on his behalf that he has previously read with care our Standard Doctrinal Works, namely, Mr. Wesley's *Notes on the New Testament*, and his first four volumes of *Sermons*, and also that he has read and signed the General Minutes (1797, vol. i. p. 396 ; 1825, vol. vi. pp. 64, 65).

2. The Conference further directs that a Candidate shall have read the *Resolutions on Pastoral Work*, bound up with the "Large Minutes," and printed in the Minutes for 1885, pp. 356-373 (1885, p. 183).

3. The Superintendent who proposes a Candidate for the Ministry is required to present a written Character to the District Synod, signed by himself, including the subjects of his health, piety, moral character, abilities for the Ministry, belief of our doctrines, attachment to our discipline, and freedom from debt and all other secular incumbrances (1810, vol. iii. p. 156 ; 1827, vol. vi. p. 279).

4. Whenever a Superintendent recommends his son as a Candidate for the Ministry, the Character of the Candidate shall be signed also by his colleague or colleagues. In cases in which the Superintendent is appointed to a solitary Station, the Character of the Candidate shall be countersigned by the Chairman of the District (1898, p. 253).

5. To assist the District Synod to judge of the fitness of a Candidate, it is required that he should preach a *Trial Sermon* in the presence of at least three Ministers of the District (at or about the time of its Annual Synod in May), to be selected by the Chairman, exclusive of the Superintendent by whom he is proposed (1844, vol. x. p. 91). To enable the Chairman

to make suitable arrangements, the Superintendent who recommends a Candidate must give him timely notice of his intention before the District Synod assembles.

6. The Candidate having passed through this preliminary Examination, and having preached before three Ministers of the District, is introduced to the District Synod, and is examined by the Chairman and the Synod on his religious experience, his knowledge of the doctrines of Christianity as held among us, and his ability to state and defend them, and his attachment to the discipline of Wesleyan Methodism (1826, vol. vi. p. 168 ; 1827, vol. vi. p. 280). A Report of the Sermon preached before the Ministers is presented to the Synod. The Ministers appointed to hear the Sermon suggest the number of valuation, but the Synod fixes it. The Synod either recommends him to the Conference or declines his offer of service.

In the case of all Candidates recommended by the District Synod, it is required that the Report of the Sermon given to the District Synod, together with the valuation given to it, and the Superintendent's recommendation, be immediately forwarded to the Secretaries of the Committee for the Special Examination of Candidates. The character of the vote, as passed by the District Synod, must be reported ; and if the vote be a divided one the numbers must be given, and also the number of neutrals, if any, shall be recorded (*Journal*, 1877 ; *Minutes*, 1894, p. 226).

N.B.—District Synods are empowered to examine by Special Committee any Candidates who, for exceptional reasons, are prevented from being present at the appointed time of Examination ; every such case to be specially recorded in the Minutes of the Synod, and reported to the Conference (1892, p. 204).

7. It is further ordered that arrangements shall be made, by the May District Synod, for the hearing of each Candidate whom it may have approved, by two Ministers of the District, in addition to those who have heard him before his recommendation by the Synod : such Ministers to forward their Report to the

General Secretaries of the Examination Committee. They are requested *not* to fix marks of value (1889, p. 194 ; 1892, p. 204).

Candidates from the Welsh Districts.—(1) Candidates from the Welsh Districts are required, if able, to preach *two* Sermons in connexion with the Annual District Synod, one in Welsh and one in English (1891, p. 221).

(2) Candidates for the Ministry from the Welsh Districts, who are able to preach in English, and who pass their Examinations in English, shall be regarded as eligible for the General Work (1889, p. 317).

Candidates from the Zetland District.—In the case of Candidates from the Zetland District, arrangements shall be made by the Secretaries of the Committee for the Examination of Candidates for the Second Trial Sermon to be preached in England (1893, p. 208).

N.B.—The Conference directs that inquiry be made of all Candidates for the Ministry whether they have been baptized.

The Manuscript Sermon.—Three *different* Trial Sermons are required from each Candidate ; two preached, and one sent in manuscript to the Secretaries of the Special Examination Committee (1889, p. 193).

Two Sub-Committees, to read and report on the Manuscript Sermons of the Candidates, shall be annually appointed as follows : one for the Southern Section, consisting of six Ministers, two of whom shall be chosen by the District Synod of each of the three London Districts from among the Ministers elected by it as Members of the Examination Committee ; and another for the Northern Section, consisting of six Ministers, two of whom shall be chosen by the District Synods of the Liverpool, Manchester, and Bolton Districts respectively, from among the Ministers elected by them as Members of the Examination Committee (1874, vol. xix. p. 436 ; 1881, p. 202).

System of Marks.—(1) In future, in valuing all Examinations and Trial Sermons, a system of marks by numbers from 1 to 7 shall be adopted ; number 1 being the highest value, and 7 the lowest.

(2) The seven grades from 1 to 7 shall signify respectively, *Excellent, Very Good, Good, Fair, Moderate, Poor, Very Poor*.

(3) The marks 1, 2, 3 shall denote three grades of an Honours Division ; and 4, 5, 6, 7, four grades in a Pass Division ; “average” quality being indicated by the mark 4 (*Fair*) (1888, p. 214).

SPECIAL EXAMINATION COMMITTEE.

A further Special Examination of the Candidates who have passed the District Synods takes place in the month of July

before a Committee annually appointed by the Conference. This Committee is divided into two sections, and is held simultaneously at Richmond and Didsbury respectively (1874, vol. xix. pp. 435, 436 ; 1881, pp. 201, 202). The Examination is partly written and partly oral, and it embraces literary attainments as well as theological knowledge. The Literary Paper for Examination is prepared, in succession, by the Tutors in Biblical Literature and in Classics of each of the four Branches of the Theological Institution ; and the Theological Paper for the Examination shall be prepared, in succession, by the Theological Tutors of the said four Branches (1897, p. 227). For examination of the Literary Papers, see *Minutes* for the current year.

Candidates who are Graduates of any University in the United Kingdom shall not be required to take the Literary Paper (1897, p. 227).

The *Oral* Examination of the Candidates is conducted by the Tutors of the Theological Institution before the Committee (1892, p. 205).

The Examination of Candidates from the North and South Wales Districts shall be examined alternately by the two Sections of the Examination Committee ; and a Minister shall be elected to be a Member of this Committee by the North or the South Wales District Synod, according as the Examination is held at Didsbury or Richmond (1886, p. 195 ; 1892, p. 207).

Medical Examination.—A Medical Certificate, given by a local doctor, must be given to the Secretaries before the Meeting of the Committee.

In connexion with each Section of the Committee, two Medical Examiners shall be employed, one of whom shall be a specialist on residence in a tropical climate (1890, p. 202).

The Special Committee having examined the several Candidates, and having before it all the documents furnished by the respective District Synods, together with the Reports of

the Sermons preached since the District Synod, carefully considers the case of each, and either recommends, or declines to recommend, him to the Conference.

It is not competent to this Committee to reject a Candidate ; for the recommendation of the District Synod is a recommendation to the Conference, which decides on every offer of service made to it through the Synods. Still, the fact that the Special Committee of Examination declines to recommend a Candidate has, very properly, great weight with the Conference. When the Special Committee concurs with the District Synod in recommending a Candidate, the Conference usually accepts him without hesitation, endorsing also, in most cases, the judgment of the Special Committee as to the sphere of service, whether home or foreign, for which he shall be designated.

Contributions towards Cost of Theological Training.—See p. 92.

CANDIDATES IN THE CONFERENCE.

“The names of the Candidates who come before the Candidates’ Examination Committee shall be presented to the Conference in three sections: (1) Those who are unanimously recommended ; (2) those upon whom a divided vote was taken, with the result of the voting (in recording the voting, the number of neutrals shall be counted) ; (3) those who are unanimously declined ” (1890, p. 203 ; 1892, p. 207).

N.B.—“When a Candidate has been recommended by a divided vote in the Examination Committee, he shall be only provisionally accepted until the entire list of Candidates has been considered, when the Conference shall finally decide his case ” (1894, p. 208).

“The Committee on the Transfers between the Foreign and Home Work shall annually advise the Conference as to the number of Candidates required for the Ministry ” (1889, p. 203).

N.B.—An intimation of the number is given to the Special Examination Committee.

MARRIED CANDIDATES.

It is only under exceptional circumstances that Married Candidates for the Ministry are to be accepted; and in all such cases a pledge is required as to the support of the Wife and Children, if any, of the Candidate during probation (1791, vol. i. p. 254).

The Pledge.—The following Pledge shall be signed by all married Candidates for the Ministry: “I, the undersigned, do hereby promise and declare that I undertake to provide all needful supplies for my Wife during the four years of my probation as a Wesleyan Minister; also, that any Child or Children I now may have, or that may be born to me during the years of my probation, shall be supported by me, without any charge or claim upon the Children’s Fund, or any other Funds of the Connexion, during the period of their natural lives; and that my only claim for any expenses or charges during the years of my Ministerial probation shall be for the usual quarterages and charges of an unmarried Minister.” (Signed.)

“We, the undersigned, guarantee that the above obligations shall be faithfully met and observed. (Signed.) (*Journal*, 1861.)

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT.

1. The Memorandum of Agreement between the Conference and Candidates from other Conferences and Churches shall apply in all particulars to married men who are accepted in the ordinary way as Candidates for the Ministry; and the payments required therein shall be made, and the privileges described therein shall begin to be enjoyed, in both cases, at the time of their admission into Full Connexion with the Conference (1886, p. 297).

2. The following are the obligatory and optional Payments to be made by Ministers of other Conferences or Churches, previous to their admission into Full Connexion with the Conference.

A. OBLIGATORY PAYMENTS.

(i) To the Treasurers of the *Home Mission Fund*:

In order that the Candidate for Admission may be regarded in all respects as a Minister who has served an ordinary four years’ probation, or who has been transferred from the Foreign to the Home Work, a payment of £220 is to be made.

(ii.) To the Treasurers of the *Children’s Fund*:

Where the Candidate for Admission has one Child when admitted, or within six months thereafter, an amount equal to five years’ Allowances, namely, at the present rate, £31, 10s. Where the Candidate for Admission has two Children, an

additional sum equal to six years' Allowances, namely, at the present rate, for the two Children, £69, 6s. Where the Candidate for Admission has three Children, an additional sum equal to seven years' Allowances, namely, at the present rate, for the three Children, £113, 8s. And for each additional Child a further increased sum at the same progressive rate (1881, pp. 230, 231).

(iii.) To the Treasurers of the *Auxiliary Fund*:

Such sums as may be agreed upon between the Candidate for Admission into Full Connexion with the Conference, and the Officers of the Fund.

B. OPTIONAL PAYMENT.

If the accepted Candidate for Admission into Full Connexion with the Conference wishes to secure for his Children the benefits of the Schools Fund, he shall pay to the Treasurers of the *Schools Fund*—(1) For a Child one year of age, in order that he or she may receive Educational Allowances of £12 a year for six years, commencing at ten years of age and ending at sixteen (the amount and the time varying as may from time to time be determined by Resolution of the Conference), £41, 2s.; or, commencing at eleven years of age and ending at seventeen, £39, 12s.; and for a Child of the age of two, three, four, or more years, in accordance with the table below. (2) In the case of a Child who shall be admitted to either of our Connexional Schools at the age of ten years or later, the usual Allowance from the Children's Fund, and, during residence, all payments from the Schools Fund, shall cease; and a further payment in advance shall be made by the Parent or Guardian in respect of each Child, during residence, of £12, 12s. a year (*Journal*, 1882; *Minutes*, 1889, pp. 414, 415).

3. In the case of a Minister having a Child or Children when received on probation, or born during the period of his probation, or within six months after its expiration, in order to give such a Child or Children a claim on the Children's Fund, he shall pay a compensation to the Fund for each such Child according to the above arrangement (1881, p. 231).

Table of Present Values of £12 Annuity for Six Years.—The payments specified in this table are based upon Actuarial calculations; and, therefore, in the event of a Child's death, no money will be returned.

For Child aged		Value of £12 a year for six years, commencing at age of					
Years		Ten years.			Eleven years.		
1	...	£41	2	0	...	£39	12 0
2	...	45	19	0	...	44	10 0
3	...	50	15	0	...	48	9 0

For Child aged		Value of £12 a year for six years, commencing at age of					
Years		Ten years.			Eleven years.		
4	...	54	6	0	...	52	9 0
5	...	57	4	0	...	55	12 0
6	...	60	8	0	...	58	7 0
7	...	63	0	0	...	60	16 0
8	...	65	9	0	...	63	3 0
9	...	67	7	0	...	65	11 0
10	...	70	5	0	...	67	17 0

(1889, p. 415.)

MINISTERS FROM OTHER CONFERENCES AND CHURCHES.

1. All applications for admission to our work by Ministers of other Conferences and Churches shall be considered and reported upon by the Transfers Committee (*Journal*, 1894).

See pp. 94, 95.

2. In all cases in which Ministers or Preachers from other Churches apply for admission into our Ministry, a letter shall be sent to the Applicant, in case the Conference agrees to the application, specifying distinctly the terms on which the request is granted (*Journal*, 1866).

CANDIDATES FROM IRELAND FOR FOREIGN MISSION WORK.

1. All Candidates from Ireland for Mission Work shall pass through the usual Circuit and District Courts in Ireland, and be accepted by the Irish Conference as for its own Ministry.

2. These Candidates shall be sent on to and be examined by the Jury Committee for the Examination of Candidates for the Ministry appointed by the British Conference.

3. If recommended by the said Committee and accepted by the British Conference, they shall be allocated as Students to one or other of the Branches of the Theological Institution.

4. Any of these Candidates who, through failure of health, or from any other cause, do not enter the Mission Work, shall return to the Irish Conference, and be dealt with as its accepted Candidates.

5. Those Candidates who, after completing their course at the Institution, enter upon Mission Work, shall thenceforward be dealt with as being under and in connexion with the British Conference, and on their return home shall be on equal terms with British Missionaries returning in similar circumstances (1886, pp. 203, 204).

ACCEPTED CANDIDATES AND THE THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTION.

Candidates and the Institution.—The Theological training of accepted Candidates, preparatory to their work as Preachers on Trial, is deemed of great importance. It is held to be very desirable that *all* Candidates, whatever may have been their educational advantages, or whatever their literary and theological attainments, should have the benefit of residence at one of the Branches of the Theological Institution. It has been decided that—

1. Except when the Conference directs otherwise, accepted Candidates shall be sent forthwith to the Institution (1886, p. 203).

2. The Conference holds that in the case of University Graduates, whether residence at the University has been required or not, a distinct Theological training at one of the Branches of the Institution is highly desirable, and repeats the Resolution of 1885: "That such Candidates shall not of necessity spend the full term of three years in the Theological Institution; but, on the recommendation of the Staff of the Branch, the term of their residence may be shortened" (see *Minutes*, 1885, p. 185). And that in the case of some Students who enter as Graduates, the Conference expresses its judgment that one year's residence at the Institution may probably be sufficient, and that in such cases the year should be devoted exclusively to Theology, Biblical Exegesis, and kindred subjects (1887, pp. 237, 238). In such cases, their probation shall also commence at the Conference next ensuing (1890, p. 314). See p. 93.

Training of Candidates for the Welsh Ministry.—1. In cases in which Candidates for the Ministry recommended by the Welsh Synods possess exceptional qualifications, and in which the District Synod and July Committee are of opinion that a course of training at a Welsh University College would be of special advantage to the Candidates and to our work in the Principality, such Candidates may be permitted to spend some time in connection with a University College, without cost to any Connexional Fund, before they are formally recognised and accepted as Candidates for the Ministry by the Conference.

2. While pursuing his studies at a University College, every such Candidate shall be placed under the special pastoral care of a Minister resident in the town in which the College is situated, who shall present a special report on his conduct and preaching work during the year, to the District Synod and to the Conference,

3. At the close of his term of study at the University College, every such Candidate shall, on the recommendation of the District Synod, and provided the Conference be satisfied as to his continued fitness for our work, be fully accepted as a Candidate for the Ministry, and shall afterwards receive such training in our Institution as the Conference may direct (1897, p. 229).

List of Reserve and the Institution.—The exigencies of the work of God render it necessary that the President of the Conference should have, each year, as already intimated, a *List of Reserve* of accepted Candidates for the Ministry, from which he may be able to supply vacancies in Circuits occasioned by death, long-continued illness, and other causes. The Resolutions of the Conference are as follows:—

1. Except in special cases, the President's List of Reserve shall consist of men who have been trained in the Theological Institution (1886, p. 203).

2. In the case of Candidates for the Ministry who are on the President's List of Reserve, and have been sent into Circuits during the year, the District Synods to which they may belong are directed to express an opinion as to the desirability, or otherwise, of their admission to the Institution (1879, pp. 251, 252).

3. In the case of Probationers who have been a year in Circuit work, and are received into the Theological Institution, and subsequently appointed to a Circuit by the Conference, the first year spent in Circuit work shall be reckoned as the first year of their probation (1877, vol. xx. p. 515).

4. Students who have not completed their term at the Institution, but are called out to meet special emergencies, shall, when their services are no longer required by the President, return to the Institution and complete their term (1887, p. 260).

5. While a Student continues in the Theological Institution, even although he is regarded as having travelled one year, his name shall not appear in the printed Minutes; and he shall not be subject to the jurisdiction of any District Synod, but only to that of the authorities of the Institution and of the Conference (1877, vol. xx. p. 514).

N.B.—It is now usual to print the names of Probationers who are on the President's List of Reserve in the Minutes under Q II. or Q III.

Missionary Students.—1. A proportion of the Missionary Candi-

dates shall be trained in the Home Branches of the Theological Institution, and any vacancies so created at Richmond shall be filled up with Candidates for the Home Work, and the Conference directs that not more than one-third, nor fewer than one-fourth, of the Candidates allocated in each year to the Richmond Branch shall be Candidates for the Home Work, and that an equal number of Candidates for the Foreign Work shall be distributed among the Home Branches, and that all Students for the Foreign Work who, having completed their term, may be placed on the List of Reserve, shall be provided for at the Richmond Branch.

2. In all the Colleges instruction shall be regularly given on the subject of the history and working of Christian Missions, and also on the history of non-Christian religious systems.

3. All Missionary Students shall, as far as possible, have three full years' training before entrance upon their work ; where practicable, they shall be designated at the end of their second year ; the field of their future labours shall be kept in view in the instruction given them during the remainder of their residence, and for such Students, wherever possible, elementary instruction in Medicine and handicrafts shall be provided.

4. Having regard to the special requirements of Students who may be intended for the East, such Students, after the completion of the usual course, shall, as far as may be found practicable, be allowed to remain in the Institution an additional year with a view to their instruction in subjects having direct reference to their intended work (1885, p. 240).

Discipline Committees.—1. The General Discipline Committee shall consist of all the Members of the Local Discipline Committees, and shall meet at the least twice a year ; the first Meeting to be in anticipation of the second Quarterly Meeting of the General Committee of the Theological Institution, and the second to take place before the fourth Quarterly Meeting of the same General Committee.

2. Each Local Discipline Committee shall meet quarterly, and at every Meeting the question shall be asked concerning each Student, "Is there any objection to——?"

N.B.—This inquiry shall include all questions affecting his moral and religious character, observance of College Rules, attention to studies, preaching ability, competency for our work, and health.

3. In any case of discipline, when the Local Discipline Committee shall so decide, a Meeting of the General Discipline Committee shall be called to consider the case ; and on receiving notice thereof, the General Secretary shall, in consultation with the President of the Conference, arrange for such Meeting. The place and time shall be fixed by the President.

4. Subject to the foregoing provision, the Local Discipline Committee shall retain the power of summary action in urgent cases, and in cases of idleness and incompetence.

5. The Local Discipline Committee, on dismissing a Student from College, shall have power to determine all points concerning his status, employment, and maintenance until the next Meeting of the General Discipline Committee, whose decision shall take effect until Conference.

6. All cases of discipline during the year, at any Branch of the Institution, shall be reported to the General Discipline Committee at its Meeting immediately before Conference.

7. The Governor of the Institution House shall answer for the Students to the Conference.

8. The Resolutions of the Conference, 1883, on the constitution and powers of the Discipline Committees, modified (see 1892, p. 209), are as follows :—

(a) Inasmuch as from the beginning of the Institution the custom has been to refer to the Discipline Committee of the Branch, consisting of Ministers only, all questions affecting the moral conduct, theological soundness, or general behaviour of the Students, and the Discipline Committee has reported to the Conference ; but in cases where the action of the Discipline Committee affected the residence of a Student, the custom has been to inform the Executive Committee of such action, the Conference directs : That no alteration be made in these customs, and that they be uniformly followed in all the Branches.

(b) The Conference directs that the practice which prevails at some Branches shall be adopted at all ; namely, That in accepting the Report of the Discipline Committee in regard to the reception as full Students of those who have been three months on probation, the vote of the Executive Committee shall be taken in each case separately.

(c) The Conference shall appoint from year to year for each Branch of the Institution, ten Ministers, who, in addition to the House Governor, Tutors, and Secretary of each Branch, shall constitute the Discipline Committee ; the Secretaries of the Missionary Society shall be *ex officio* Members of the Discipline Committee of the Richmond Branch.

9. When it is decided by the Local and General Discipline Committees that the full period of three years' training at College should in the case of any Student be shortened, the Ministerial Probation of such Student shall not be reckoned as beginning until the Conference at which he would have completed his three years' training. This Rule shall not apply to Students who have taken a Degree in any of the Universities of the United Kingdom (1892, pp. 208–210). See *University Graduates*, pp. 79, 88, 93.

Reports to Conference.—The names of all accepted Candidates for the Ministry shall be placed in the Journal of the Conference, and till an appointment to a Circuit, or other Connexional work, be made, a Report shall be presented year by year, in each case—by the President of those on the List of Reserve, and by the Governors of the Branches of the Theological Institution (*Daily Record*, 1874; *Journal*, 1877).

Contributions towards cost of Training.—1. The Conference affirms the principle which has from the beginning been recognised in the administration of the Institution, in regard to charges on account of Students, that such Students as have the means, or whose friends have the means, shall be expected to contribute, in whole or in part, according to their ability, towards the cost of their own maintenance and education.

2. The Conference resolves that a minimum charge for *maintenance* shall be made, which every Student shall be expected to defray; it being, however, distinctly understood that the General Committee shall be empowered to remit the charge wherever, and in so far as, it may be found on inquiry that any Student is unable to pay. And further, that all Students who are able, either themselves or by their parents or friends, to add to the payment for *maintenance*, payment on account of *education*, should be urged to do so.

3. The Conference directs that information be given to the General Treasurers of the Institution Fund of the resignation of any Preacher on Trial, or of any Minister who has not been ten years in the Full Work of the Ministry, in order that a list may be kept of those who have not discharged their obligations in respect of their College training (1881, p. 251; 1887, p. 237; 1889, p. 205).

Allowances to Students.—Allowances to Students shall be paid only in cases of proved necessity, the amount not to exceed £10 per annum; and instead of the question which has hitherto appeared in the Schedule, a separate document shall be prepared and forwarded to each Candidate for the Ministry, to be filled up and signed by the Parent or Guardian of such Candidate, and countersigned by the Superintendent of the Circuit; and the necessity for an Allowance shall be proved to the General Committee through the Governor of the Branch to which the Candidate is appointed as a Student (1879, p. 250).

Curriculum.—The Curriculum of Study is given in Part III, Chapter IV. pp. 301–303.

PROBATION FOR THE MINISTRY.

Commencement of Probation.—1. Every Student who has completed his term of *three* years in the Theological Institution, and is duly certified by the Discipline Committee, shall be regarded as commencing his probation at the Conference next ensuing.

2. If he receives an appointment at the Conference, or is called out by the President as a Supply before Christmas, he shall be entitled, after Ordination, to the usual Allowances of an Ordained Minister.

3. But if not so appointed or called out, or if he shall be specially recommended to return to the Institution for a fourth year's course of study, he shall, in the year immediately following his Ordination, be entitled only to the Allowances of an unmarried Minister. This Resolution does not carry any disabilities with regard to other Funds than the Home Mission and Contingent Fund (1889, p. 204).

4. Those Candidates for the Ministry who have taken a Degree in any one of the Universities of the United Kingdom, shall not, of necessity, spend the full term of three years in the Theological Institution; but, on the recommendation of the Staff of the Branch, the term of their residence may be shortened. And in such cases their Probation shall also, on the above conditions, commence at the Conference next ensuing (1890, p. 314). See *Candidates and the Institution*, p. 88.

5. When it is decided by the Local and General Discipline Committee that the full period of three years' training at College should in the case of any Student be shortened, the Ministerial Probation of such Student shall not be reckoned as beginning until the Conference at which he would have completed his three years' training. See *Discipline Committee*, p. 91 (9).

6. A copy of the *Resolutions on Pastoral Work* is to be presented, under the direction of the Chairman of each District, to every Preacher on Trial on his first appointment to a Circuit (1885, p. 183).

7. The period of Probation is four years (1784, vol. i. p. 170).

Probationers who have completed their Term at the Institution.—1. Students who have completed their term at the Institution, and were not called out during their third year by the President, and have not received appointments at the Conference, shall, if no other course be open to them, return to the Institution, and there await the call of the President (1889, p. 311).

2. Students who have completed their term at the Institution, but were called out during the previous year by the President, yet have not received appointments at the Conference, are under the care and at the cost of the Home Mission Committee (1889, p. 311).

3. Students who have completed their term at the Institution, and have been sent by the President as Supplies, shall, when their services are no longer required, be placed by the President under the direction of the Home Mission Committee, which shall be responsible for their maintenance; the Committee shall, however, be entitled to a week's notice from the President before any such Student receives another appointment (1887, p. 260).

Probationers on the President's List.—All applications for the services of Probationers on the List of Reserve for the whole or any part of the next Connexional year are to be forwarded to the President of the Conference not later than July 1st in each year; and a Committee to classify the cases meets during the Sessions of each Conference (1891, p. 229).

Probationers appointed to Circuits.—Probationers for the Ministry, when appointed to Circuits, are Members of the Leaders' Meetings and all other official meetings (excepting, of course, Trustees' Meetings) in their respective Circuits; and, as such, have a right to take part in their proceedings and to vote (1852, vol. xii. p. 121).

Probationers are not empowered ordinarily to administer the Sacraments, but an exception is made in relation to the Sacrament of Baptism, in cases of special emergency. The following is the Minute on this subject adopted in the year 1829: "Those of our Preachers on Trial who shall be deemed proper to be appointed for this purpose by their respective Superintendents, shall be allowed to administer the holy Sacrament of Baptism. But this permission shall extend only to *private* administration, in cases where children cannot be brought to the house of God, and where there are circumstances of great emergency, which will not allow the administration to be conveniently delayed" (vol. vi. p. 513). It is one of the "Standing Orders" of the Conference, that Superintendents, in making their Circuit Plans, are to arrange that their junior colleagues who may be on trial shall have proper facilities for partaking of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper (1844, vol. x. pp. 91, 92; 1881, p. 303).

Preachers on Trial are not allowed to marry during their pro-

bation, without the special permission of the Conference (1806, vol. ii. p. 349). Until their probation closes, their position is not decided; and their energies should be entirely devoted to qualifying themselves for the sacred work to which they propose to dedicate their lives.

Committee on Transfers and Reports on Probationers.—

“1. The Conference appoints a Committee, consisting of the President and Secretary of the Conference, and fifteen other Ministers, five of whom shall be chosen by the Home Mission, the Foreign Missionary, and the Theological Institution Committees, respectively. The Secretary of the Conference is the Convener of the Committee.

“2. This Committee shall sit prior to the Sessions of the Conference, to consider and report upon:—(1) All cases of proposed transfer between the Foreign and the Home Work. (2) All cases in which the Conference has determined that Special Reports upon Probationers shall be presented to the ensuing Conference. (3) The health and general fitness for our Work of the men on the President's List of Reserve. (4) The number of Candidates required for the Ministry. (5) All applications for admission to our Work made by Ministers of other Conferences and Churches” (1889, p. 203; 1890, p. 212; 1891, pp. 232, 233; 1894; p. 224; 1896, p. 226).

Experience in Circuit Work during Probation.—“Where practicable, all Preachers shall have had experience of Circuit Work before being received into Full Connexion. The Conference recognises that there are special cases in which exception must be made” (1889, p. 204).

Probationers not entitled to Vote.—“Neither in District Synods nor at the Conference have Preachers on Trial a right to vote. The election of a Representative [to the Stationing Committee] is not an exception” (1840, vol. ix. p. 105).

PROBATIONERS' EXAMINATIONS.

During each of the four years of probation, every Probationer is to undergo an Examination in the subjects which are prescribed by the Conference from year to year. [For General Regulations and Subjects of Examination, see *Minutes* for current year.]

1. "Probationers, whether appointed to Circuits or on the List of Reserve, are to be examined in the subjects of their year" (1889, p. 190).

2. "The Conference sees no sufficient reason for the exemption of those who have been Ministers of other Churches from the usual course of Reading and Examination, and directs that they be required to observe such Regulations" (1877, vol. xx. p. 416).

3. "Those who may be put back in their probation shall not be required to pass the Examinations of Probationers for that year to which they may be put back" (*Journal*, 1886).

Probationers' Examination District Secretary.—"At the September District Synod, a District Probationers' Examination Secretary shall be appointed, with Assistant Secretaries if necessary, so as to provide a Secretary to take charge of each Central Examination in the District, and each Secretary shall be held responsible for the efficient conduct of the Central Examination. Where the distances allow, at least two Probationers shall be examined at each centre. The Secretaries for adjoining Districts shall confer before the end of September, with a view to fixing suitable centres for the Examination of Probationers stationed near the borders of the Districts. Full and clear instructions as to the course to be pursued shall be forwarded to the Secretaries by the General Secretaries" (1897, p. 213).

Central Examination.—Each Financial District Synod is directed to make arrangements for Central Examinations.

1. The place of the Examination is to be chosen with a view to reducing as much as possible the travelling expenses involved. For this purpose it shall be allowed, where deemed advisable, that Probationers from different Districts may be examined in the same centre (1887, p. 176 ; 1896, p. 201).

2. The Examination shall be held in two parts, the first in the month preceding Christmas, the second in the Spring ; and it shall take place throughout the Connexion on the same days, which shall be fixed from year to year (1896, p. 202).

3. Every Probationer may claim the third-class railway fare to and from the place of Examination. Those expenses shall be defrayed, together with other expenses of the Examination, from the Home Mission and Contingent Fund, and from the Theological Institution Fund, in such proportions as the Committees of those Funds may decide (1887, p. 176 ; 1896, pp. 201, 202).

4. The Conference recommends that Examination centres be so arranged at the September District Synods (or, where necessary, by consultation between the General Secretaries and the District Examination Secretaries), that no Probationer shall have to travel more than thirty miles by rail to his Examination (1898, p. 223).

Special Arrangements.—If any Student be removed from the Theological Institution for Circuit Work later than Christmas Day in any year, he shall not be expected to take the subjects prescribed for the Examination of Probationers ; but provision shall be made for his being examined, not later than June, in four subjects arranged by his Tutors and the General Examination Secretaries, in accordance with the course of study which he pursued before leaving the Institution. In every instance three of the subjects presented for Examination shall be books (or portions of books) of Scripture. The result of this Examination shall be reported to the Conference, and shall be included in the special Report required in the case of all Candidates for Ordination. The Examination of men on the President's List of Reserve who have not entered upon the four years of probation, shall be arranged on a similar principle (1885, p. 173 ; 1896, p. 209).

Regulations concerning Examinations.—The following Regulations have been adopted by the Conference in reference to these Examinations :—

1. *Postponement of Examination.*—(1) In no case shall the Examination, in whole or in part, be postponed without the sanction of the General Examination Secretaries, the Chairman of the District, and the Superintendent of the Circuit. A Special Report of each postponement shall be presented to the May Synod (1895, p. 200 ;

1896, p. 208). (2) Should any Probationer be prevented by illness, or otherwise, from attending the Annual Examination, the General Secretaries shall, in concert with the Chairman of the District in which he is stationed, make suitable provision for his Examination. In every case, notification should be sent to the Secretary named in the Minutes as early as possible. Permission for such postponement shall be given only on the ground of illness, or other serious emergency arising at the time of the Examination (1876, vol. xx. p. 143 ; 1896, p. 209).

2. *Re-examination.*—(1) Whenever a Probationer obtains a lower grade than 5 for any paper, representing a minimum of thirty per cent. of the full credit obtainable, he shall be re-examined in the same subject, and the results of both Examinations shall be specially reported to the Conference. In the Examinations on the Hebrew Bible and Greek Testament, questions on points of grammar shall form an essential part of every paper set. (2) The second Examination referred to in the last paragraph shall take place before the end of April, in order that the District Synod may be made acquainted with the result (1884, pp. 181, 182 ; 1896, p. 208).

Course of Reading.—1. Every Preacher on Trial is required to deliver to the Chairman of his District a list of the books which he has read since the preceding District Synod. These lists shall be laid before the Meeting, that the senior Ministers may have an opportunity of giving to the junior Preachers such advices and directions respecting their studies as may appear to be necessary (1815, vol. iv. p. 122).

2. The Examination Committee is instructed to prepare and send to each Probationer, early in October, a list of books specially recommended for the reading of Preachers on Trial, some of which shall have particular reference to the Scriptural doctrine of the Church. With this shall be sent a classified Form on which the Probationers shall describe their reading, theological and general, for the year. These Forms are to be sent in to the Chairman of the District at least a week before the meeting of the May Synod. The Conference directs that when the Book Lists of Preachers on Trial are under consideration in the Synods, the Chairman shall note how far their reading has been guided by the recommended list (1891, p. 218 ; 1894, p. 200 ; 1896, pp. 209, 210).

Special Grant from Circuit Funds to Preachers on Trial.—“In order to promote the Ministerial improvement of our Junior Preachers during their probation, by facilitating their acquisition of our Standard Works, and of other suitable theological books, we earnestly recommend to the Quarterly Meetings of

those Circuits in which such Preachers are stationed while on trial, to allow them a sum *not less than one guinea per quarter*, in addition to their usual salary, to be laid out in the purchase of books, under the direction of their Superintendent and other colleagues" (1825, vol. vi. p. 65).

Probationers of the Fourth Year.—1. Probationers of the Fourth Year, and all Candidates for Ordination, are required to take in March a paper on portions of Wesley's Works to be chosen from year to year (1896, p. 208).

2. The Conference directs the General Examination Secretaries to send in May, to each District Synod having one or more Candidates for Ordination, a Report showing the result of the Examination of every such Candidate during each year of his probation (1879, p. 182).

3. If a Preacher on Trial enter upon the Home Work after spending part of his probation in the Foreign Field, the Missionary Secretaries shall furnish the Chairman of the District to which he is appointed a Report upon each year of probation which has been spent abroad. This Report is to be laid before the District Synod in May (1896, pp. 229, 230).

4. Wherever practicable Preachers on Trial shall preach during the District Synods. Candidates for Ordination are required at or before the May District Synod to preach before three Ministers of the District, who shall report, in writing, to the Synod (1871, vol. xviii. p. 403).

5. (1) Before any Preacher, having travelled four years, is recommended by his District Synod for admission into Full Connexion, he shall undergo a careful Examination, by the Chairman of that Synod, respecting his acquaintance with Wesley's Works in general, and especially with his Sermons, and his Notes on the New Testament, in addition to the other Examinations required by our existing Rules; and no Preacher shall be so recommended unless the result of his Examination be satisfactory to the Synod. This Oral Examination may be omitted when the Report on the paper (see paragraph 1) is satisfactory (1815, vol. iv. p. 122; 1896, p. 197).

N.B.—Preachers on Trial who do not possess Wesley's Works are required to procure them during their Probation, and to pay for them to the Book Steward by convenient instalments (1815, vol. iv. pp. 122, 123).

(2) Every such Preacher shall also be examined as to his knowledge of the Constitution of Methodism and the Administration of Circuits; and as to whether, after four years' experience of its working, he still approves of our Discipline (1897, p. 207).

· CANDIDATES FOR ORDINATION.

The Candidate for Ordination is further examined in the Synod as to his present Christian experience, his theological knowledge, his beliefs of the doctrines contained in Wesley's standard writings, and his attachment to the Methodist economy and discipline.

The District Synod having before it all the evidence thus supplied of the character and ability of each Candidate for Ordination, together with the testimony of the Superintendent of the Circuit in which he is stationed, recommends either that he be ordained at the approaching Conference, or continued on trial, or even dropped.

Candidates attending Conference.—1. "The Preachers on Trial shall not attend the Conference, unless sent for, or unless stationed within such a distance of the place where it is held as will admit of supplying their appointments on the Lord's Day" (1809, vol. iii. p. 90).

2. "All the Preachers who are recommended by their respective District Synods to be admitted into Full Connexion, shall be required to attend the Conference *of that year*, to undergo the usual Examinations, and, if approved, to be publicly set apart, without delay, to the Christian Ministry" (1821, vol. v. p. 251).

3. "Candidates for Ordination shall not be allowed to divide the time with other brethren" (*Journal*, 1867).

Examination of Candidates for Ordination at the Conference.—1. "Arrangements shall be made for conducting the Examination, in the Conference, of Candidates for Ordination at a time when the President of the Conference can attend, and when a large proportion of the Conference, including its official Members, may be expected to be present."

2. "An explicit declaration of his belief in the Doctrines of

Methodism shall be required of each Candidate" (1883, pp. 181, 182; 1896, p. 197).

Ordination by the Imposition of Hands.—1. "The Conference, after mature deliberation, resolves that the Preachers who are this year to be publicly admitted into Full Connexion, shall be ordained by imposition of hands; that this shall be our standing Rule and usage in future years; and that any Rule of a contrary nature, which may be in existence, shall be, and is hereby, rescinded" (1836, vol. viii. p. 85).

2. "The persons by whom the Conference shall confer Ordination to our Ministry, by imposition of hands, shall be the President, ex-President, and Secretary of the Conference for the time being, with two of the Senior Preachers, to be nominated by the President" (1841, vol. ix. p. 250).

3. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper shall be administered to the then Ordained Ministers (*Journal*, 1844).

Ordination of Welsh Ministers.—"Probationers for the Welsh Ministry, at the end of their fourth year, shall undergo their Public Examination at the Assembly, be ordained in their native land, and receive a Charge in their native tongue."

N.B.—"This would not interfere with their subsequent appearance before the Conference, where alone they could be received into Full Connexion" (1898, p. 493).

Letters of Ordination.—"Letters of Ordination shall be given to the persons ordained, according to the practice of Mr. Wesley, and as is now done in the case of Ministers appointed to Missionary Stations. The Book Committee is directed to prepare the Letters of Ordination" (*Journal*, 1844).

After Ordination by the imposition of hands, the Ordained are regarded as Christian Ministers and Pastors, empowered not only to preach the Gospel, but to administer the Sacraments of our holy religion, and charged with all the responsibilities of the Christian Pastorate.

CHAPTER VI

THE MINISTRY—PASTORAL DUTIES—SPECIAL DUTIES OF SUPER-INTENDENTS — HOME MISSIONARY MINISTERS — DISTRICT MISSIONARIES — ARMY AND NAVY MINISTERS — THE ITINERANT SYSTEM — WEEKLY MEETING OF MINISTERS—FOREIGN MISSIONARIES — ADMISSION OF EUROPEANS INTO THE MINISTRY ON MISSION STATIONS—MINISTERS WITHOUT PASTORAL CHARGE — MINISTERS SET APART TO CON-NEXIONAL OFFICES.

THE Christian Ministry is regarded by the Wesleyan Methodist Church, not as a profession, but as a vocation from Christ Himself, to which the undivided energies of those who have received it are to be devoted. The course of probation is designed to enable the Church to judge of the reality of that vocation in respect of each Preacher on Trial; and the act of Ordination is viewed as solemnly recognising the call of Christ, and as setting apart the individuals in question for life-long service to Him.

“The Conference solemnly resolves to stand by the Connexional Principle, adopted by Mr. Wesley, and hitherto maintained by his successors, as being that in which—next to the blessing and grace of the Holy Spirit—the great strength of Wesleyan Methodism lies, for the conservation of its internal purity and order, and for the accomplishment of the great spiritual objects for which the Providence of God first brought it into existence, and has hitherto sustained it.”

“The Conference regards itself as being bound, by the principles set forth in the New Testament, and by the sacred trust transmitted to it by Mr. Wesley and his coadjutors, to maintain the Pastoral Office in unimpaired integrity; and, consequently, bound to uphold the Spiritual Authority which is appropriate to that Office, and necessary to the execution of

the duties which Christ has made imperative on all those who sustain it" (1850, vol. xi. p. 468; 1851, vol. xi. p. 678).

The Ministers appointed to a Circuit are charged with the spiritual oversight of the several Societies and Congregations comprehended in it; and they are charged, also, to put forth, as well as to encourage on the part of others, evangelistic efforts. A summary of the duties of the Ministry generally, as exercised under the economy of Wesleyan Methodism, is contained in the Minutes adopted at the Liverpool Conference of 1820. On several subsequent occasions the Conference has enforced on its Ministers the special duties of the Christian Pastorate.

These Resolutions on Pastoral Work, *codified* by the direction of the Conference, were adopted and printed in the Minutes of 1885. The Conference directed that in the stead of the Liverpool Minutes these "Codified Resolutions" should be read and made the subject of conversation at each Annual District Synod, and by the Ministers of each Circuit at their first Weekly Meeting after the September Quarterly Meeting (1885, p. 183, and pp. 356-373). These Resolutions are given in Appendix III. pp. 528-544. See also Resolutions of the Conference of 1835 in Appendix IV. pp. 548-550.

Party Politics.—1. "As the spirit of the times exposes us, in common with our people, to peculiar excitements and temptations in reference to matters foreign to the exclusive calling of Methodist Ministers, we resolve, in dependence upon the grace of God, to keep aloof from all merely party purposes, and from party spirit; and to caution and warn our people against these evils" (1835, vol. vii. p. 552).

2. "It is highly inexpedient, and perilous to the peace of the Body, that any Preacher should, on his individual authority, issue General Circulars addressed to our Preachers, Stewards, or other officers, as such, or to our *People distinctively*, in their religious character and capacity as Wesleyan Methodists; such Circulars being intended and calculated to engage their atten-

tion and activity, as *Methodists distinctively*, on any political subject which may be agitated at the time by the several parties in the State" (1837, vol. viii. p. 223).

3. "The Conference recognises on the one hand the individual freedom of its Ministers as Christian citizens, and on the other hand their responsibility to each other and the Conference as Members of a non-political Body, and confides in their loyalty and honour so to regulate and control their public action as not to imperil the unity of the Ministerial Brotherhood, or disturb the peace of the Connexion at large" (1875, vol. xix. pp. 714, 715).

See *Trust Properties and Political Meetings*, p. 318.

SPECIAL DUTIES OF SUPERINTENDENTS.

The Ministers appointed to a Circuit form an Associated Pastorate, but special duties are devolved on the Superintendent. "The Superintendent is that Preacher in each Circuit who is appointed, from time to time, to take charge of the Societies and the other Preachers therein" (1749, vol. i. p. 44).

The Superintendent presides in all the Official Meetings in his Circuit. He has also to care for his colleagues, and in some sense to watch over them; and while it is his duty to confer with them on all matters affecting the interests of the Circuit, and more especially in the appointment of all Circuit and Society Officers, the ultimate responsibility rests upon himself. He is specially responsible for the enforcement of the discipline of Methodism, in all its branches, in the Circuit of which he has charge. It belongs to him to make the Circuit Plan, or to sanction it, if made at his request, by one of his colleagues. He has to secure the observance of the Rules which apply to the conduct of Public Worship, the administration of the Sacraments, and the observance of the Quarterly Fasts. He has to meet the Trustees of every Chapel in his Circuit at least once a year,

and, in connexion with other persons, to audit their accounts (1811, vol. iii. p. 221 ; 1825, vol. vi. p. 65 ; 1821, vol. v. p. 249).

A distinct responsibility rests upon him when a charge has been brought against a Member of the Society, and established to the satisfaction of a Leaders' Meeting. The sentence in every such case is to be determined by him. Should the fault appear to him so serious as to require the exclusion of the Member in question from the Society, he is to take at least one week for careful inquiry and deliberation. He is to seek information from individual Leaders, and from other judicious and experienced Members of the Society ; he is also to confer with his colleagues at their Weekly Meeting ; and it is not until after all this has been done that he is to declare an individual put away from the Society. "The Conference directs that when the Superintendent has not a colleague, and cannot therefore consult a Weekly Meeting of the Preachers of the Circuit, he shall in every case of the proposed expulsion of a Member of Society take counsel with the Chairman of the District" (1898, pp. 253, 254). Then it must not be overlooked that "every expelled Member has a right of appeal to a Minor District Synod, to the Annual District Synod, and to the Conference," "if he is dissatisfied with the sentence of expulsion pronounced by a Superintendent."

(For *Right of Appeal* reserved to expelled Members, see pp. 24-25).

Public Worship and the Administration of Discipline.—With regard to the conduct of public worship and the administration of discipline, the following important statement is each year prefixed to the Stations in the Minutes of the Conference :—

The Superintendent and other Minister or Ministers stationed in or appointed to the several Circuits undermentioned, is and are appointed by the Conference to preach and to perform all acts of religious worship and Methodist discipline in each and every one of the Wesleyan Methodist Chapels already erected, or to be erected,

in each Circuit respectively, within the space of twelve kalendar months, at such time or times, and in such manner as to him or them shall seem proper ; subject, nevertheless, to the Superintendent Minister (1898, p. 67).

See *Appointments of Ministers to Circuits and Chapels*, pp. 171-173.

Appointment to Chapels.—With regard to the Superintendent's power to appoint to Chapels, see *The Chapel Model Deed*, which is printed *in extenso* as Appendix V. to this volume, pp. 554-594.

Public Worship.—The times and manner of the various Services and Ordinances of Religious Worship are to be regulated according to our General Rules and Usage, and “the officiating Preacher for the time being, whether appointed by the Conference, or permitted or appointed by the Superintendent Preacher, . . . shall have the direction and conducting of the same worship, in conformity, nevertheless, to the said General Rules and Usage of the people called Methodists” (*The Chapel Model Deed*, see pp. 569, 570).

The Conference directs that no Preacher shall “suffer his right to conduct every part of the worship of Almighty God, to be infringed on, either by singers or others ; but to sacredly preserve, and calmly maintain his authority” (1805, vol. ii. p. 290).

Organs shall be so used as not to *overpower* or *supersede*, but only to assist the congregational singing, and they shall be considered as under the control of the Superintendent or of the officiating Preacher for the time being (1808, vol. iii. p. 29).

See also *Form of Discipline* XVI., “How to guard against Formality in Public Worship, especially in Singing,” p. 492.

Liturgy and Lectionary.—“Wherever Divine Service is performed in England on the Lord's Day in ‘Church-hours,’ the officiating Preacher shall read either the Service of the Church, our venerable Father's Abridgment of it, or, at least, the Lessons appointed by the Kalendar. But we recommend either the full Service or the Abridgment ; or, where neither

is used, the reading of the Psalms in connexion with the Morning Lessons. At every Public Religious Service, at least one chapter of the Holy Scriptures shall be read before the Sermon is preached" (1795, vol. i. p. 340; 1869, vol. xvii. 622). See *Form of Discipline*, xxiii. p. 501).

The Sacraments.—1. "The Conference directs that the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper shall always be administered according to the Liturgy of the Church of England, or according to the Abridgment of that Liturgy by Mr. Wesley; but the person who administers shall have liberty to give out hymns, to use exhortation, and extemporary prayer. The administration of Baptism, and the Burial of the Dead, shall be determined by the same regulations. At Baptism, both parents are expected to be present" (1840, vol. ix. p. 94; 1869, vol. xvii. p. 622). See *Plan of Pacification*, pp. 506, 507.¹

N.B.—A revised edition of the Book of Offices was adopted by the Conference in 1881 and 1882. In adopting the revised Form of the Baptismal Service, the following words were used: "It was resolved that in thus adopting a revised Form of the Baptismal Service, the Conference does not prohibit the use of any Forms which have heretofore been approved by the Conference" (1882, p. 223).

2. "No person shall be suffered, on any pretence, to partake of the Lord's Supper among us, unless he be a Member of Society, or receive a Note of Admission from the Superintendent (or from the Preacher administering), which Note must be renewed quarterly" (1869, xvii. p. 622).

"It is most important that a united and earnest attempt should be made to secure the presence of all our Members, and the showing of Tickets, at the Lord's Supper. As regards strangers occasionally attending our services, who desire to participate with us, they may reasonably be expected to assure the Minister of their fitness, by explaining to him that they

¹ Baptisms are to be duly Registered, proper Books being provided for this purpose (1829, vol. vi. p. 513; 1841, vol. ix. p. 251).

are Members of another Church, or for what reason, not being Members of any Church, they desire to be Communicants; and such occasional cases can be met by the issue of a special Note of Admission by the Minister. That the Table of the Lord should be open to all comers is surely a great discredit, and a serious peril to any Church" (1889, p. 412).

3. "No person shall be permitted to administer the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper but a Minister in Full Connexion" (1811, vol. iii. p. 221).

N.B.—Junior Colleagues are to have proper facilities for partaking of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper (1844, vol. x. pp. 91, 92).

4. "Preachers *on Trial*, who shall be deemed proper to be appointed for this purpose by their respective Superintendents, shall be allowed to administer the holy Sacrament of Baptism. But this permission shall extend only to *private* administration, in cases where children cannot be brought to the house of God, and where there are circumstances of great emergency, which will not allow the administration to be conveniently delayed" (1829, vol. vi. p. 513).

5. "Any application for a dispensation to a Probationer to administer the Sacraments shall be made to the President through the Chairman of the District" (1892, p. 219).

6. *Registration of Marriages*.—The Registration of Marriages solemnized in Wesleyan Chapels under the Marriage Act, 1898 (61 and 62 Vict. c. 58), is of great importance. A copy of the Act with the Statutory Rules and Orders (No. 77), 1899, may be obtained from the Book-Room.

7. *Special Services conducted by Strangers*.—The Conference deems it expedient to direct Superintendents not to sanction the occupation of any of our Chapels for continuous service by persons who are not amenable to our regular discipline. The Ministers of the Body are specially referred to *Minutes* for 1847, Q. xxxix. vol. x. pp. 551-553 (1862, vol. xv. p. 326).

THE SUPERINTENDENT'S KALENDAR.

N.B.—In constructing this Kalendar, an average Circuit, in respect of number of places, has been kept in view.¹

January.

Covenant Service. See pp. 10, 11.

Society and Poor Stewards to be changed, if necessary. See p. 192.

Arrangements to be made for auditing Chapel Stewards' accounts, and for holding Trustees' Annual Meetings. See *The Chapel Model Deed*, pp. 578, 579.

Annual Meeting of Sunday Schools Committee and Subscribers to be held. See p. 381.

Sunday School Representative, or Representatives, to Quarterly Meeting to be chosen at "the Annual Teachers' Meeting." See p. 405.

Subscriptions for Theological Institution Fund to be collected, and the amount remitted as directed in the Minutes.

Remittances from Juvenile Missionary Associations to be made, through the Circuit and District Treasurers, to the Home and Foreign Missionary Treasurers in London.

Foreign Missionary Accounts to be closed, and arrangements made for auditing, and transmitting Reports to District Foreign Missionary Secretaries, and the General Secretaries in London. See pp. 259, 260.

Public Collections for the Metropolitan Chapel Building Fund to be made, on the last Sunday, in all the Chapels in each Circuit within the City and Metropolitan Police Area.

Book Order to be sent not later than the 18th of the month; and so on during the year, with the exception of July.

February.

Begin Visitation of Classes, due notice to be given to the Leaders. See pp. 7, 8, 533, 547.

¹ This valuable compendium is taken from Simon's *Summary of Law and Discipline*, pp. 229-236.

The papers concerning the Yearly Collection in the Classes to be given to the Leaders for distribution to their Members.

At the Visitation of the Classes, the donations for the Yearly Collection to be entered in the Class Books by the Minister, and collected by the Leaders (1882, p. 307).

Annual Trustees' Meetings to be held. See p. 233.

Forms for collecting Chapel Statistics to be given to the Circuit Chapel Secretary, and to be sent by him to the Treasurers of the several Trusts.

Forms for collecting Statistics of Day and Sunday Schools, Temperance Societies, and Bands of Hope, to be given to the respective Secretaries. See pp. 380, 386, 401, 431.

Public Collections to be made, and Private Subscriptions solicited for the General Chapel Fund; and the amount remitted as directed in the Minutes.

Auxiliary Fund Allowances, for the half-year, to be paid on 10th February, to Supernumeraries and Ministers' Widows, if there are any in the Circuit.

March.

Not *later* than 1st March each Superintendent should send to the Secretary named in the Minutes a particular account of all claims for Educational Allowances in his Circuit; specifying distinctly the names of the Children for whose education the claims are made, together with the date, year, and place of their birth, and the exact number of years during which the Allowance has been received. A Schedule is provided by the Officers of the Children's Fund. No claim should be entered on the Schedule for Children at the Connexional Schools.

Conclude Visitation of Classes, making in each the Yearly Collection.

The Local Preachers' Meeting to be held. See pp. 225-229.

The Circuit Plan to be made. See p. 223.

On the first Saturday in the month, the Examination of Pupil Teachers in Religious Knowledge is held.

On the date fixed by the Conference, the Probationers' Examination is held.

The Circuit Quarterly Meeting to be held. For Special Business, see pp. 193-200.

Names and addresses of Representatives to District Synods to be sent to the Chairman of the District. See p. 196.

Names and addresses of Candidates for the Ministry, if any, to be sent to the Chairman of the District.

United Trustees' Meeting to be held on the date fixed at the December Quarterly Meeting. See pp. 236, 237.

Public Collections to be made for Education Fund.

The amount of the Public Collections made in the Chapels for the Metropolitan Chapel Building Fund, together with the Collections at Public Meetings, and other Contributions, to be remitted, as directed in the Minutes, not later than the end of March.

It is desirable that the amount of the Circuit Assessment for the Children's Fund should be paid, as directed in the Minutes, in quarterly instalments in September, December, March, and June. See *Collections and Subscriptions*.

Remittance to Book Steward. See p. 308.

April.

Prepare for the District Synod.

Fill up and send to the Secretary of the District the President's Circular.

Get in the Yearly Collection.

Send to the respective District Secretaries, the Chapels, the Education, and the Temperance Schedules. See p. 401.

N.B.—When the Secretary of the District Synod prepares a printed *Agenda* for the use of the Synod, it is of great assistance to him if Superintendents will send their Schedules at the earliest date possible.

The preliminary Examination of Candidates for the Ministry is held on the date fixed by the Conference and published in the Minutes. See pp. 79, 80.

Where the Foreign Missionary Anniversary is held in the autumn, the Sunday Collections for the Home Mission and Contingent Fund should be made in April.

A Public Home Missionary Meeting should be held, as far as practicable, in every place in each Circuit.

Quarterly Remittances from Juvenile Missionary Associations to be made.

Private Subscriptions for Education Fund to be solicited, and the amount of Collections and Subscriptions to be remitted as directed in the Minutes.

May.

Visitation of the Classes. See pp. 7, 8, 533, 547.

District Synod. See pp. 129, 130.

Communicate with Representative to the Stationing Committee.

Public Collections for the Foreign Missionary Society shall be made on the Lord's Day at the time of holding the Missionary Meeting; and where no Meeting is held, the Collections shall be made in May.

Private Subscriptions for the Missionary Society shall be solicited and received weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annually, as is most convenient to the Subscribers, the amount to be remitted by the Circuit Treasurer, through the District Treasurer, to the Deputy Treasurer in London. Annual Subscriptions are due 1st May.

Private Subscriptions for the Auxiliary Fund to be solicited; the Superintendents to remit the amount without delay, as directed in the Minutes.

June.

Conclude Visitation of Classes.

Local Preachers' Meeting to be held. See pp. 225-229.

Circuit Plan to be made. See p. 223.

The Circuit Quarterly Meeting to be held. For Special Business, see pp. 201, 202.

Quarterly instalment of Circuit Assessment for Children's Fund to be paid as directed in the Minutes.

Remittance to Book Steward. See p. 308.

July.

Remit Memorials from Circuit Quarterly Meetings as directed in the Minutes. See pp. 201, 202.

Fill up and return Financial Secretary's Schedule. See p. 166.

Special Examination Committee meets at Richmond and Didsbury. See pp. 83, 84.

Conference.

Book Accounts must be closed at or before the Conference. See p. 308.

Quarterly Remittances from Juvenile Missionary Associations to be made.

Public Collections for the Auxiliary Fund to be made, the amount to be remitted as directed in the Minutes.

August.

Visitation of the Classes. See pp. 7, 8, 533, 547.

The papers concerning the Collection in the Classes for the Auxiliary Fund to be given to the Leaders for distribution to their Members.

At the Visitation of the Classes the donations for the Auxiliary Fund to be entered in the Class Books by the Minister, and collected by the Leaders. See pp. 367, 368.

Auxiliary Fund Allowances, for the half-year, to be paid, on 10th August, to Supernumeraries and Ministers' Widows, if there are any in the Circuit.

If leaving the Circuit, write list of Members in the Circuit Book. See p. 16.

September.

Send to the Financial Secretary of the District the number of the Children in the Circuit for whom Allowances for Maintenance will be claimed in the ensuing Connexional year.

Financial District Synod. See pp. 130-132.

Conclude Visitation of Classes, making in each the Collection for the Auxiliary Fund.

At the Weekly Ministers' Meeting the Resolutions on Pastoral Work to be read. See pp. 528-544.

The Local Preachers' Meeting to be held. See pp. 225-229.

The Circuit Plan to be made. See p. 223.

Furnish every Steward, Local Preacher, and Leader with a copy of the Pastoral Address of the Conference to the Societies. See p. 542.

Appoint Special Society Meetings for the purpose of having the Pastoral Address read. See p. 542.

If the Missionary Meetings are held in the autumn, arrangements to be made.

The Circuit Quarterly Meeting to be held. For Special Business, see pp. 189-191.

Quarterly instalment of Circuit Assessment for Children's Fund to be paid as directed in the Minutes.

October.

Subscriptions promised in the Classes to the Auxiliary Fund to be collected at the first or second Class Meetings in October, and to be paid to the Circuit Treasurer. See p. 368.

Third Sunday to be observed as day of Special Prayer for Sunday Schools and young people. See p. 243.

On the last Saturday in the month, the Examination of Pupil Teachers in Religious Knowledge is held.

Public Collections for the Home Mission and Contingent Fund to be made in October, except where the Foreign Missionary Anniversary is held in the autumn, in which case the Sunday Collections for this Fund should be made in April.

November.

November 1. The latest date for application to admit Children of Ministers to Connexional Schools.

Visitation of Classes. See pp. 7, 8, 533, 547.

Public Collections to be made and Private Subscriptions solicited for the Fund for the Maintenance and Education of Ministers' Children, and the whole amount remitted as directed in the Minutes.

On the last Sunday in the month, special reference to be made in Chapels and Sunday Schools to the extent and results of Intemperance. See p. 430.

December.

On the date fixed by the Conference, the Probationers' Examination is held.

Conclude Visitation of the Classes.

The Local Preachers' Meeting to be held. See pp. 225-229.

The Circuit Plan to be made. See p. 223.

The Circuit Quarterly Meeting to be held. For Special Business, see pp. 191-193.

Names and addresses of Circuit Stewards to be sent to the Chairman of the District. See p. 192.

Quarterly instalment of Circuit Assessment for Children's Fund to be paid as directed in the Minutes.

Private Subscriptions for the Home Mission and Contingent Fund to be solicited, and the amount of Collections and Subscriptions remitted as directed in the Minutes.

Public Collections for the Theological Institution Fund to be made, and the amount remitted as directed in the Minutes.

Remittance to Book Steward. See p. 308.

Watch Night Services to be held.

RETURNS TO THE CONFERENCE.

1. The number of Local Preachers and Class Leaders shall be annually reported in the Minutes of the Conference.

2. This return shall embrace the following particulars:—

(1) Accredited Local Preachers. (2) Society Classes; Junior Society Classes. (3) Ministerial Class Leaders; Lay Class Leaders; Leaders of Junior Society Classes (1883, p. 182).

ITINERANCY AND TERM OF MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENT.

The *Itinerant System* is a leading feature in the Wesleyan Methodist Church. According to the Deed of Declaration on which the Connexion rests, no Minister can be appointed to the same Chapel or Chapels "for more than three years successively" (*Deed of Declaration*, Clause XI.). See p. 468.

The appointments to Circuits made by the Conference are, nevertheless, annual, and may be terminated at the end of the year.

In order to meet *Exceptional Cases*, Ministers have been continued on the same ground without being appointed to the same Chapel or Chapels for a longer *consecutive* period than three years. In the year 1893 the following declaratory Resolution was adopted:—

"The Conference recognises the necessity of exceptional appointments for a longer period than three years to Missions, and in some special cases to Circuits; and is gratified to find, on the authority of Counsel, that the method of appointment already adopted in such cases is legally within the power of the Conference" (1893, p. 330).

Re-appointment to Circuits.—The term during which a Minister must be absent from a Circuit before he can be re-appointed is three years. He may then return, provided that the invitation of the Circuit Quarterly Meeting is substantially unanimous. In relation to Scotland this Resolution was adopted in 1866 (vol. xvi. p. 589), and in regard to England and Wales in 1889 (1889, p. 304; 1890, p. 207).

Appointment to Circuits in the Same Town.—There is now no Regulation to prevent a Minister being appointed for an indefinite number of years to Circuits in the same town. The Rule that "where there are in the same City or Town, two or more Circuits, no Preacher shall be so stationed in them as to remain in the same City or Town for a period exceeding six years in succession," was rescinded in the year 1890 (1890, p. 305).

Claims of Conference Towns.—"The arrangements between Ministers and Circuits may not be set aside in deference to claims preferred by Circuits in Conference Towns at the time the Conference is being held there" (1877, vol. xx. p. 514).

Probationers who have been Supplies.—A Probationer sent by the President, before Christmas, as a Supply, is not thereby disqualified for appointment for a third year to the Circuit where he served as a Supply (1887, pp. 193, 194).

WEEKLY MEETING OF MINISTERS.

1. "Ministers who labour together in the same Circuit are required to meet together once a week, or as often as it is practicable, in order to converse freely with each other respecting the affairs of their Circuits" (1806, vol. ii. p. 348). The Resolutions on Pastoral Work, pp. 528-544, are to be read at the September Meeting (1885, p. 183).

2. "Army and Navy Ministers are directed to attend the Weekly Meeting of the Ministers of the Circuit in which they may reside" (1870, vol. xviii. p. 152). See pp. 281, 282.

Monthly Meeting of Ministers.—When there are two or more Circuits in the same town, the Ministers appointed to them, or resident in them, are advised to meet together at least once a month.

The following is the Resolution of the Conference on the subject:—"The Preachers of different Circuits—when resident in the same town—shall meet at least once in every month for the purposes of mutual conference and prayer, in order to promote brotherly love, and to afford frequent and regular opportunities for friendly consultation on subjects of common concern in their respective Circuits" (1827, vol. vi. p. 281). See *Methodist Councils in Large Towns*, pp. 188, 189.

HOME MISSIONARY MINISTERS.

In addition to Ministers appointed to the ordinary work of Circuits, several others are stationed as Home Missionary

Ministers, a few are engaged as District Missionaries, and as Connexional Evangelists.

ARMY AND ROYAL NAVY.

Several Ministers both at Home and on Foreign Stations are appointed to labour for the benefit of Wesleyan Soldiers and Sailors.

The Regulations for the employment of a Home Missionary Minister, of a District Missionary, or of a Connexional Evangelist, and of a Minister set apart for the benefit of the Army and Royal Navy, and the position and duties of Ministers so employed, and also of the Seamen's Missionary, are set forth in Part III. Chapter II. of this work. See *Home Mission and Contingent Fund*, pp. 275–285.

DEPARTMENTAL MINISTERS.

Ministers who are set apart to Connexional offices are appointed for a term of *six* years; this appointment, however, like that of Ministers to particular Circuits, being subject to the annual confirmation or reversal of the Conference (1836, vol. viii. p. 84; 1837, vol. viii. p. 224).

In 1838 a resolution was adopted limiting the appointment of the same Minister to the office of Governor of the Theological Institution to three years; but, on the recommendation of the local Committees of the several Branches of the Institution, this exception has been abolished. The Resolution that the Governor should have no Tutorial duties has been rescinded (1880, p. 231; 1888, p. 262).

Nominations.—1. Twelve months before the end of any term of Departmental Office, the Committee in charge of the Department shall submit to the Representative Session of the Conference the names of three Ministers in nomination for that office; of whom the Officer for the time being may, or may not, be one. The Pastoral Session of the Conference shall designate for appointment one of the three nominated by the Representative Session. A similar course shall be pursued in cases of emergency arising before the Conference, which involve immediate appointment. In case of

an emergency arising after the close of the Representative Session, the Pastoral Session shall have the right to appoint without a previous nomination (1886, p. 204 ; 1890, p. 423).

2. On the presentation of three names by the Committee of any Department, according to Rule, for designation or appointment, the Conference, in its Representative Session, shall take at least one ballot ; and then, if an absolute majority has been secured, and the Conference thinks fit, it may by open vote pass on the result of the first ballot to the Pastoral Session.

When a ballot is taken, the Committee of Scrutineers shall consist of not less than twenty persons, and shall make all arrangements for the collection and counting of votes (1892, p. 312).

Elections.—1. In any new appointment to a Departmental Office, the Minister elected shall have a clear majority of the total number of votes cast ; and when such majority is not obtained on the first ballot, a second ballot shall be taken on the first two—or, if necessary, the first three—names on the list which have the largest number of votes (1883, p. 183).

2. There shall be no prohibition of discussion on the nominations for election to Departmental Offices (1887, p. 194).

3. Subject to the foregoing Regulations, the Conference is at liberty to renew the re-appointment to Departmental Offices as often as it shall deem necessary (1836, vol. viii. p. 84).

Relation to District Synods.—1. It is expedient that when Ministers are appointed to work together as Colleagues in any Department, they should be Members of the same District Synod ; but that any Minister appointed to a Department who has not a Colleague should be a Member of the District in which he resides.

2. As regards Disciplinary and Pastoral questions, there is no reason for altering the arrangement . . . by which the Officers of the Wesleyan Missionary Society, the Home Mission Fund, and the Conference Office, are attached to the First London District ; but the Secretaries of the Metropolitan Chapel Building Fund, and the Fund for the Extension of Methodism, neither of whom has a Colleague, shall be attached to the District in which they reside (1882, p. 224).

MINISTERS WITHOUT PASTORAL CHARGE.

1. Any Minister wishing to maintain his ministerial status whilst holding no definite appointment to a Circuit or a Department, and without becoming a Supernumerary, shall apply for permission

through the District Synod to the Conference, which shall decide the case after a full examination of it by a Special Committee.

2. Any such Minister shall continue to be in every way subject to our discipline, including the usual inquiries as to character and doctrine.

3. No such Minister shall receive any payment from the Auxiliary Fund during, or on account of, the years in which he shall occupy the position herein described; and he shall pay the yearly Assessments to the Fund for the Maintenance and Education of Ministers' Children on the same scale as Ministers appointed to Departments; and he shall then continue to receive the benefit of those Funds in the ordinary course.

4. The name of every such Minister shall stand upon the Minutes in connexion with some Circuit, and following his name shall be these words: "Resides in this Circuit without pastoral charge." Nevertheless, he shall not, as a Minister, be a Member of the Quarterly Meeting or of any Leaders' Meeting in the Circuit (1888, p. 215).

5. In the case of a Member of the Legal Conference having been entered on the Minutes as without pastoral charge, in conformity with the Resolutions of the Conference of 1888, the Conference resolves that, at the expiration of four years from the commencement of such an arrangement, he shall cease to be a Member of the Legal Conference. The effect of this Resolution shall not be retrospective (1890, p. 212).

FOREIGN MISSIONARIES.

The Conference has declared that the Rules of Discipline respecting the admission and exclusion of Members shall be strictly enforced, as in Europe; and that the authority of the Superintendent shall be the same in every place (1800, vol. ii. p. 56). "The Revised Rules and Regulations of the Wesleyan Missionary Society" adopted by the Conference in 1885 (see pp. 254-258) contains the following important Resolutions (1) in reference to the selection of Candidates; and (2) the Trial of Missionaries:—

Candidates for the Foreign Mission Work.—1. As the Missionaries who are sent out from this country to labour under the direction of this Society are to be Ministers in connexion with the Yearly Conference, and have generally a claim to be recognised as such on their return from Foreign Stations, the selection of Candidates for the Mission Work shall be made in accordance with any Regulations which may be in force from time to time for selection of Candidates for the Home Work (1885, p. 344).

2. If, in the interval between the Annual Meetings of the Conference, the list of accepted Candidates shall be exhausted, and more are urgently wanted, or if a Missionary with special qualifications shall be immediately required, the Committee shall be at liberty to employ other suitable persons, provided always that such persons shall have been previously recommended by their respective Superintendents, and by the Quarterly Meetings of the Circuits to which they belong, and either by the District Synods, or by three neighbouring Superintendents, and shall also have been examined and approved by a Special Committee. But this liberty shall be used by the Committee only in cases of pressing emergency, and then only with the express consent of the President of the Conference for the time being (1885, p. 344).

3. The Special Committee to which reference is made in the foregoing Regulations shall consist of the Ministerial Officers and Members of the Missionary Committee, together with three Ministers from each London District, who shall be annually appointed by the Conference. The President of the Conference for the time being, or in his absence an ex-President, shall preside at the Meetings of this Committee (1885, p. 345).

The Trial of Missionaries.—"The trial of any Missionary who may at any time be accused of misconduct or of any departure from the Doctrines and Discipline of the Connexion, shall in all ordinary cases be left with the District Synod to which he may belong, according to the General Rules and Usages of the Methodist Conference. But the Conference may at any time recall any Missionary for any reason which it may deem sufficient; and in the intervals between the Annual Meetings of the Conference, the Committee in London shall possess and may exercise a similar power of recall, and of putting any Missionary so recalled upon his trial, either at the ensuing Conference, or, in a case requiring immediate decision, before a Special Committee" (1885, p. 345).

ADMISSION OF EUROPEANS INTO THE MINISTRY ON MISSION STATIONS.

The Conference of 1896, finding that European Candidates are from time to time recommended by Missionary Synods, resolved as follows :—

1. If Candidates so recommended come to this country, and pass the usual tests, they are dealt with as Candidates for the General Work.

2. Otherwise, they are accepted, if at all, as Candidates for the Ministry only in the country specified in the recommendation; and they have no claim for an appointment to a Circuit in the Home Work, or to furlough or passage at the expense of the Missionary Society (1896, p. 225).

MINISTERS UNDER AFFILIATED CONFERENCES.

“1. British Ministers who have elected to remain in Full Connexion with the Yearly Conference whilst continuing to be employed under an Affiliated Conference must be held to be absolutely subject to the Affiliated Conference in all matters connected with the work and within the limits of that Conference; but the question of their continued connexion with the Yearly Conference can be determined only by the vote of the Yearly Conference.

“2. Any British Minister who has elected to enter into Full Connexion with an Affiliated Conference, or who may hereafter so enter, must be regarded as having thereby resigned his connexion with the Yearly Conference; and the fact of such resignation shall be entered on the Journal of the Yearly Conference.

“3. Ministers who were not sent out from England, but were taken into the Ministry in the Districts now belonging to Affiliated Conferences, and also Native Ministers, were intended to be absolutely subject to the jurisdiction of their respective Affiliated Conferences. The Conference declares that they are so subject to the Affiliated Conferences, and that they have ceased to be in connexion with the Yearly Conference; and directs that complete lists of those Ministers shall be entered on the Journal of the Yearly Conference” (1891, p. 231).

For *Obituaries of Ministers of Affiliated Conferences*, see p. 55.

CHAPTER VII

DISTRICT SYNODS: ORIGIN AND PRIMARY PURPOSE—CHANGE OF TITLE—CONSTITUTION OF THE SYNODS—FINANCIAL DISTRICT SYNOD—ANNUAL DISTRICT SYNOD.

ORIGIN AND PRIMARY PURPOSE OF DISTRICT SYNODS.

THE division of the Connexion into *Districts* was a measure resolved upon at the first Conference held after the death of Mr. Wesley, and was intended to meet cases of emergency which, during his life, had been submitted to his personal decision. This step was further deemed to be necessary for the preservation of the whole Economy of Methodism (1791, vol. i. p. 249). The District Committees, as the Synods were then called, were constituted in order to be summoned on any critical case which in the judgment of a Superintendent was deemed necessary; and also to determine all appeals during the intervals of the Conference. The Resolutions are as follows:—

1. "The Assistant (Superintendent) of a Circuit shall have authority to summon the Preachers of his District who are in Full Connexion, on any critical case, which, according to the best of his judgment, merits such an interference. And the said Preachers, or as many of them as can attend, shall assemble at the place and time appointed by the Assistant (Superintendent) aforesaid, and shall form a Committee for the purpose of determining concerning the business upon which they are called. They shall choose a Chairman for the

occasion ; and their decision shall be final till the meeting of the next Conference, when the Chairman of the Committee shall lay the Minutes of their proceedings before the Conference. Provided, nevertheless, that nothing shall be done by any Committee contrary to the Resolutions of the Conference" (1791, vol. i. pp. 249, 250).

2. "The Synods of the Districts shall determine all appeals whatsoever during the intervals of the Conference ; and therefore all applications on Society business during the said intervals, which cannot be determined by the Assistants (Superintendents) of the Circuits, shall be made to the Synods only" (1791, vol. i. p. 254).¹

¹ In Lord Lyndhurst's Judgment in Dr. Warren's Case, the following exposition of the law of 1791 appears :—

"In the year 1791, after the death of Mr. Wesley, for the first time Districts throughout the Kingdom were established ; and a provision was made to this effect, that the Assistant of the Circuit shall have the power of convening together the Preachers of the District, upon 'any critical case which might occur' ; that they should have the power of appointing a Chairman, when so met ; that their decision upon the matter before them should be final, until the next Conference ; that the Chairman should report the proceedings to the Conference ; who, upon that report, should act as the Conference should think proper and just. That is the first law, to which I think it necessary attention should be directed.

"Nothing is said with respect to offences committed by Preachers, nothing is said as to the trial of Preachers ; but still, taking the language and the spirit, and the scope of this law, and the nature of the Society, can it for a moment be doubted that, if a Preacher had so conducted himself . . . as to introduce discord, and to disturb the harmony of a Society like this, and endanger the Connexion, that that would not be considered as a critical case, justifying the Assistant in calling the Meeting of the Preachers ? If so, and they had the power to decide, and their decision was to be final till the next Conference, is it not quite obvious that it might, in many instances, be necessary, under such circumstances, for the purpose of preserving the very existence of such a Society, that the Meeting should have the power of suspending or removing the Preacher, subject always to the ratification or opinion of the Conference ?" (*Summary of Methodist Law and Discipline*, pp. 284, 285.)

The District Synods were primarily appointed to maintain discipline in the Circuits, as well as among the Preachers, and to hear appeals. But whilst they were *especially* entrusted with the maintenance of discipline, there was *ordinary* business, also, which they were appointed to transact. The Conference of 1791, the same by which District Synods were first instituted, gives this direction respecting them: "Let the District Synods settle the temporal accounts of their respective Districts *annually*, either on the Saturday before the Conference, or at such time as is most convenient" (1791, vol. i. p. 255).

In the following year, 1792, Chairmen of Districts were appointed by the direction of the Conference. It was asked, "What further Regulations shall be made concerning the management of Districts?" To this question the following answer was given: "All the Preachers of every District respectively, who shall be present at the Conference from time to time, shall meet together as soon as possible after the Stations of the Preachers are finally settled, and choose a Chairman for their District out of the present or absent Members of the District Synod" (1792, vol. i. p. 269).

The same Conference gave the following direction: "Let the Synods of the Districts settle all the temporal business of the Districts respectively, as far as possible; and let the Chairman of each District lay the accounts in writing before the Conference" (1792, vol. i. p. 272).

The Conference of 1793 resolved that "no division shall be made in a Circuit where it does not appear to the District Synod . . . and the Conference that there is such an enlargement of the work of God as requires it" (1793, vol. i. p. 289).

The same Conference gave the following directions:—(1) "All matters relating to the building of preaching-houses and dwelling-houses shall be determined in future in the District Synods." (2) "All matters relating to the payment of the debts of houses, collections for houses, and everything that appertains to preaching-houses and dwelling-houses, shall be

considered and settled in the District Synods" (1793, vol. i. p. 289).

In the Minutes of 1791, and of two or three succeeding years, there are Regulations directing the District Synods to choose a Representative to form a Stationing Committee at the Conference, and to determine what Preachers shall attend the Conference (1791, vol. i. pp. 255, 256; 1792, vol. i. p. 273).

From these and other Regulations it is clear—(1) that whether the District Synods were called together on any extraordinary business or not, they were to hold an Annual Synod at the time most convenient for them to assemble; and (2) that at their Annual Synod they were directed to investigate the temporal affairs of their Districts, so that the business might be brought before the Conference in a prepared state, and thus leave more time for the consideration of spiritual matters. The District Synods at their Annual Meetings had, in addition to more strictly pastoral affairs, the temporal concerns of their respective Districts to transact. They were required from the first to act as Committees of the Conference to prepare the business for "the Yearly Conference."

"The District Synod was, moreover, specially appointed as an *extraordinary* tribunal, for the determining of all cases of emergency in which the ordinary method of enforcing discipline should fail; and in this character assembling whenever cases of difficulty might arise requiring its interference."¹

Thus in the gradual development of Wesleyan Methodism, District Organisation has fulfilled a most important part in its economy; and the Annual and Financial District Synods, in particular, are essential to the carrying out of the Connexional system.

For Lord Lyndhurst's Judgment concerning the disciplinary powers of District Synods, see p. 124.

¹ *Constitution of Wesleyan Methodism*, by John Beecham, D.D., p. 29.

CHANGE OF TITLE OF DISTRICT SYNODS.

“The Conference is of opinion that the name ‘District Committee’ no longer fully represents the relation of these Meetings to the Conference and to the Connexion, and entirely fails to set forth their ecclesiastical character. The Conference therefore resolves that the District Committees shall henceforth be called ‘District Synods’” (1892, p. 322).

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN.

The Chairman of each District is appointed by the Conference, by vote taken by ballot, of all the Ministers in Full Connexion who are present, but “a clear majority of the total number of votes cast” is necessary for an election (1797, vol. i. p. 395; 1886, p. 295).

APPOINTMENT OF FINANCIAL SECRETARY.

The Chairman, on his election, names the Minister in his District whom he considers most eligible for the office of Financial Secretary, who is appointed simply on his nomination (1831, vol. vii. p. 67). He is the Secretary *ex officio* of the September District Synod. In the Annual District Synod, the Secretary is chosen by ballot of the Ministers present (1806, vol. ii. p. 246).

CONSTITUTION OF DISTRICT SYNODS.

1. *Ex-officio Members*.—All the Ministers in the District who are in Full Connexion with the Conference, and also Preachers on Trial, are Members of the District Synod; though Preachers on Trial have no vote on any subject brought forward. During the consideration of Ministerial affairs the Ministers and Preachers on Trial only are present. In the transaction of all Financial affairs, Laymen are associated with the Ministers as Members of the District Synod. The Lay Members of the Synod are the Circuit Stewards, the District Treasurer of the Ministers’ Children’s Fund, the District Treasurer of the Worn-

out Ministers' and Ministers' Widows' Fund, the District Treasurer of the Foreign Missionary Society, the Treasurer of the District Sustentation Fund, and the Lay General Treasurer of any Connexional Fund, being a Member of Society and resident in the District, together with the Lay Members of the District Committees appointed at the September Synods, viz.:—

District Foreign Missions Committee.—To consist of the Chairman of the District, the Financial Secretary, the District Treasurer, one Ministerial and one Lay Secretary, with two Ministers and three Laymen. At least one Lay Member to retire annually (1887, p. 256). See p. 258.

District Home Mission Committee.—To consist of the Chairman of the District, the Financial Secretary, and not more than four other Ministers and six Laymen. At least one Lay Member to retire annually by rotation (1879, p. 228). See pp. 269, 270.

District Chapel Committee.—To consist of the Chairman of the District, the Financial Secretary, two other Ministers and four Laymen. One of the Ministers to be Chapel Secretary for the District. One Lay Member to retire annually by rotation (1866, vol. xvi. p. 564). See p. 311.

District Education Committee.—To consist of the Chairman of the District, the District Education Secretary (who shall act as Secretary of the Committee), two other Ministers and four Laymen being Members of Society. One Lay Member to retire annually by rotation (1875, vol. xix. p. 699; 1893, p. 319; 1897, p. 341). See p. 390.

District Temperance Committee.—To consist of the Chairman of the District, the District Temperance Secretary (who shall act as Secretary of the Committee), four other Ministers, and four Laymen (1883, p. 242; 1887, p. 257; 1893, p. 319). See p. 432.

District Local Preachers' Committee.—To consist of the Chairman of the District, the Financial Secretary, and six Local Preachers. If any Local Preachers be chosen who are

not already Members of the Synod, they shall, by this appointment, become Members (1894, p. 315; 1895, pp. 311, 312). See pp. 219, 220.

2. *Representative Members*.—" (1) The Circuit Stewards of each Circuit shall be called upon at the March Quarterly Meeting to declare their ability and willingness to attend the ensuing Annual Meeting of the District Synod in May, or the contrary. If they, or either of them, shall declare inability or unwillingness to attend the said District Synod, the Quarterly Meeting shall have the right of electing by and from its own Members, and by open vote, a Representative or Representatives to supply the vacancy or vacancies so created " (1877, vol. xx. p. 421).

(2) "Circuit Stewards, who are otherwise Members of the District Synod, shall not be at liberty to decline to attend the District Synod as Stewards, and then claim the right to sit and vote by virtue of any other office " (1892, p. 311).

(3) In addition to the Circuit Stewards, who represent especially the financial interests of the Circuit, each Circuit shall, at the March Quarterly Meeting, elect as Members of the District Synod either one or two Laymen who are considered suitable on general grounds to take part in the counsels of the District Synods in the May and September following.

(4) The plan of enlargement is based upon the number of Ministers in Circuit work stationed in each Circuit. Circuits employing one or two Ministers shall elect one Representative to the District Synod; Circuits with three or more Ministers shall elect two Representatives.

(5) "The Conference declares that no one is eligible for a seat in a District Synod, or upon any Committee thereof, who is not a Member of the Wesleyan Methodist Church " (1892, p. 309).

(6) "The Conference resolves that, at the elections in Quarterly Meetings of the Representatives to the District Synods, the usage of open voting may be departed from, and the elections decided by ballot, after nomination by the Lay Members of the Meeting " (1893, p. 319).

3. *Substitutes for Lay Members of Synods.*—"The Circuit Quarterly Meeting in March shall be entitled to elect provisionally a substitute for each of the Circuit Stewards, whether he shall, or shall not, have declared his ability and willingness to attend the Annual Synod in May; also a substitute for each of the Representatives, or for the Representative. Any Circuit Steward or Representative who shall find himself unable to attend the Synod shall inform the Superintendent, who shall thereupon invite the Substitute to be present" (1897, pp. 340, 341).

THE FINANCIAL DISTRICT SYNOD.

The Financial District Synod, though of subordinate importance to the Annual District Synod, may be properly considered first, as it is held very soon after the Conference, and is empowered to make arrangements which must necessarily affect the working of Methodism in the several Circuits of the District throughout the Connexional year.

The Synod is convened by the Chairman of the District, in the month of September, early enough to allow of its conclusions being made known to the Michaelmas Quarterly Meetings of the several Circuits. The Conference directs that Ministers, not being Superintendents, be summoned by circular to the meeting of the Synod in a way similar to that in which Lay Members are summoned (1897, p. 243). A circular of invitation is sent to each of the Lay Members of the Synod soliciting their attendance, specifying the business to be brought forward, and particularly mentioning any subject that may have been specially remitted by the Conference to its consideration (1872, vol. xviii. p. 652).

The ordinary and regular business of the Financial District Synod comprehends the appointment of the District Home Mission Committee, with its Secretary, and the distribution of the Grant from the Home Mission and Contingent Fund for ordinary deficiencies in the dependent Circuits of the District

the provision for additional Ministers' houses ; arrangements for holding Home Missionary Meetings in the several Circuits ; the appointment of the District Treasurer of the Ministers' Children's Fund ; the settlement of the amount to be contributed by the Circuits respectively towards the quota to be raised by the District on behalf of the Fund for (a) the Maintenance, (b) the Education, of Ministers' Children ; the appointment of the District Treasurer of the Worn-out Ministers' and Ministers' Widows' Fund ; the appointment of the District Probationers' Examination Secretary, and fixing the place of the Central Examination ; the appointment of the District Education Secretary, and arrangements for the Examination of Pupil Teachers in Religious Knowledge ; the appointment of the District Sunday School Committee ; the appointment of the Treasurer and Committee of the District Sustentation Fund ; the appointment of the District Temperance Committee, with its Secretary ; the appointment of the District Chapel Committee, with its Secretary or Secretaries ; the consideration of Chapel cases ; the appointment of the District Treasurer, the District Secretaries, and the District Committee for Foreign Missions ; the arrangements for holding the Anniversary Meetings on behalf of Foreign Missions throughout the District, and the consideration of expenses incurred in the previous year in holding such Anniversaries.¹

The District Synods shall inquire, at their September Meetings, whether in all cases of change of Ministers the recommendation of the Conference, that a certificate of the good sanitary condition of the Ministers' houses should be handed to the incoming Ministers, has been carried out (1893, p. 327 ; 1894, p. 323).

¹ *Isle of Man District*.—It shall be a part of the business of the Financial District Synod of the Isle of Man District to call the attention of Superintendents, and other Ministers who may be responsible, to the Regulations as to the duty of making certain Quarterly Returns to the Registrar-General of the Island, according to the provisions of the "Dissenters' Marriage Act Amendment Act, 1885," of the Isle of Man (1885, p. 285).

It is also decided at this Synod when and where the Annual District Synod shall be held. The several particulars now mentioned are given more fully in the *Order and Form of Business directed by the Conference to be transacted in the May and September Meetings of District Synods*; in which Manual the several Minutes of the Conference bearing on each subject are quoted at length. The leading duties devolving on the several District Officers above referred to are specified in Chapter IX. of this Part of the present work. (See pp. 166–170.)

THE ANNUAL DISTRICT SYNOD.

The Annual District Synod assembles in May, and consists of a Pastoral and a Mixed Session. After singing, the reading of a portion of Scripture, and prayer, the Secretary is chosen by ballot of the Ministers present.

1. PASTORAL SESSION.

The Pastoral Session precedes the transaction of Financial and general business. During the consideration of Ministerial affairs, the Ministers and Preachers on Trial only are present. All the Ministers and Preachers on Trial are required to attend unless prevented by illness, in which case a dispensation is granted. It is the duty of the Chairman to summon to the District Synod, by circular, Superintendents and all the Ministers in the District.

“In the case of any Minister whose name is on the Journal only, the Conference shall, in each case, define his position, both in relation to the District Synod, and to the discharge of Ministerial functions” (*Journal*, 1872; *Minutes*, 1877, vol. xx. p. 515).

Ministerial Character.—The first and most important part of the proceedings is the consideration of the questions of Ministerial Character and Ability for the Ministerial Work. The questions asked respecting every Minister and Preacher on Trial are: “Is there any objection to his moral and religious

character? Does he believe and preach our Doctrines? Has he duly observed and enforced our Discipline? And has he competent abilities for our Itinerant work?"¹ It is, of course, held that, if there be opportunity, any complaint which a Member of the Meeting may design to allege against another should be previously communicated to him; but the District Synod has power to institute any inquiries which may appear to be proper and requisite. The Conference has expressly affirmed that District Synods have the undoubted right of instituting any inquiry respecting the character or conduct of any Minister or Preacher on Trial, although no formal accusation may have been given.²

1. Not only the Conference, but all its District Synods, whether Ordinary or Special, possess the undoubted right of instituting, in their official and collective character, any inquiry or investigation, which they may deem expedient, into the moral, Christian, or Ministerial conduct of the Preachers under their care, even although no formal or regular accusation may have been previously announced on the part of any individual; and they have also the authority of coming to such decisions thereupon, as to them may seem most conformable to the laws of the New Testament, and to the Rules and Usages of our Connexion. In the District Synods, especially, the Chairman has the official right of originating such inquiries, if he think necessary; because our Rule declares that "the Chairman of each District, in conjunction with his Brethren of the Synod, shall be *responsible* to the Conference for the execution of the laws, as far as his District is concerned."

2. All Preachers who desire to remain in ministerial communion with us are considered as retaining that communion on the distinct condition that they hold themselves individually pledged to submit, in a peaceable and Christian spirit, to the usual disciplinary investigations, not only of the Conference, but of all its District Synods, whether Ordinary or Special, when summoned according to our Rules and Usages. And any Preacher who refuses to submit to the friendly examination of the Chairman, and of other Brethren, or to take his trial, regularly and formally, before the Preachers either of an Ordinary or of a Special District Synod, when duly required so

¹ See *Order and Form of Business in District Synods*.

² *Marriage of Ministers*, p. 478. See *Minutes*, 1806, vol. ii. p. 349; 1824, vol. v. pp. 519, 520.

to do, shall be considered as, *ipso facto*, incurring the penalty of suspension until the ensuing Conference; because no possible security can be found even against the worst forms of moral or ministerial delinquency, if persons charged with any misconduct, and summoned to trial, be allowed to evade with impunity our established modes of investigation (1835, vol. vii. pp. 549, 550).

In connexion with this inquiry into Ministerial character, if any Minor District Synod has been held since the Conference, the Minutes of that Meeting, together with any appeal against its decisions, must be read and carefully considered by the Annual District Synod; and the judgment of the District Synod, whether confirming, modifying, or reversing the decision of the Minor District Synod, duly recorded. Other appeals, too, which may be made direct to the Annual District Synod, without the intervention of a Minor District Synod, must also be considered. On all cases of discipline brought before it, the Annual District Synod has power to adjudicate, subject to an appeal to the Conference, to which body the ultimate decision, in every case, belongs. Some other questions bearing on the observance of the Rules by the Ministers follow this formal inquiry into Ministerial character.¹

Deceased Ministers.—The District Synod then proceeds to inquire whether any Minister or Preacher on Trial has died during the year, and to place on its records a brief notice of his character and labours. “Secretaries of District Synods are directed to forward copies of the obituaries of deceased Ministers to the Convener of the Committee on Obituaries, immediately after the Annual Meeting of the Synod” (1892, p. 217).

Retirement of Ministers.—The retirement of Ministers, through age or infirmity, from the active work of the Ministry, is then considered, together with the return to the work of a Circuit of any who had rested for a short time.

¹ “In all voting upon cases of Discipline in the District Synods, the number of neutrals shall be recorded” (1894, p. 226).

Supernumeraries Returning to the Full Work.—(1) “The Conference resolves that in all cases where it is recommended that Supernumerary Ministers shall return to the full work, inquiry and report shall be made by the Committee appointed at Conference to examine the cases of those Ministers who have had Supplies during the year” (1897, p. 244).

(2) “In the case of any Minister who has been made a Supernumerary on the ground of either (1) discipline or (2) difficulty in finding him a Circuit, no District Synod shall recommend his re-appointment unless some Circuit in that District is willing to receive him, or he shall have received an invitation to a Circuit in another District” (1892, p. 218).

For *Ministers under Discipline*, see *Minutes*, 1893, p. 226.

Members in Society, and attendance of the Military.—The number of Members in the Society, and in Junior Society Classes, as well as the attendance of the Military at our Chapels and at Class, is reported. Special inquiry is made whether the Regulations adopted by the Conference for the employment of Home Missionary Ministers, Army and Navy Ministers, and District Missionaries have been faithfully observed; and a Report, in each case, is made of the work of these brethren during the year.

Pastoral Visitation and the Religious Oversight of the Young.—The important subjects of Pastoral Visitation and the Religious Oversight of the Young are then considered; and the Superintendents of the several Circuits have to say, with regard to themselves and their colleagues, whether the directions of the Conference on these subjects have been observed.

State of the Work of God.—The state of the Work of God in the District next passes under review; and, after the reading of the *Resolutions on Pastoral Work*, and the *Twelve Rules of a Helper*, a conversation on some of the topics suggested takes place. *Resolutions on Pastoral Work*, see pp. 528–544.

Report on District Probationers.—The District Probationers’ Examination Secretary then presents his Report of the Results

of the Central Examinations of the Preachers on Trial in the District.

Probationers' Book-lists.—The Book-lists of these brethren are read, and considered. “The Probationers' Examination Committee is instructed to prepare a list of books for the reading of Preachers on Trial, and Chairmen of Districts are to note, when the Book-lists of Probationers are under consideration, how far their reading has been guided by the recommended list” (1897, p. 221).

Candidates for Ordination.—In this Session, or a later one, of the District Synod when consisting of Ministers only, Candidates for Ordination, whose four years' period of probation is about to expire, are examined, and their cases are individually considered, that the District Synod may report on each to the Conference; the continuance of other Preachers on Trial is sanctioned and recorded. See pp. 98–100.

Candidates for the Ministry.—Candidates for the Ministry are examined, and the case of each is carefully inquired into and discussed.

Provisionally adopted Resolutions.—The Synod is also required to consider any Resolutions provisionally adopted by the preceding Conference during its Pastoral Session, that it may report its judgment upon them to the ensuing Conference when Ministers only are present. “No new law on any subject within the province of the Conference when composed of Ministers only, can come into force until it has been submitted to the District Synods when Ministers only are present, and until their reports, if any, shall have been considered, and such law shall have been confirmed by the next Conference when so composed” (1877, vol. xx. p. 424).

It is usually found that the first day of the Annual District Synod does not suffice for the consideration of *all* these subjects; in which case some of them are reserved until the final sitting of the Ministerial Members of the District Synod, when all the financial and general business has been transacted.

2. THE MIXED SESSION.

The Financial Business of the District, when the Lay Members are associated with the Ministers, is appointed to begin on the second day of the Annual District Synod (1817, vol. iv. p. 343). But the Conference has decided that, "should the Chairman of any District find that special circumstances exist in that District which render another day preferable to the second as that on which the Lay Members shall join the Ministers, he is at liberty to act on his own discretion in the matter" (1873, *Daily Record*, p. 212; *Journal*, 1877).

The Chairman is required to summon to the District Synod, by circular, each Lay Member. This circular, which is prepared by the Secretary of the Conference, specifies the business which will be brought forward, particularly mentioning any subject that may have been remitted by the Conference to the consideration of such Meeting (1872, vol. xviii. p. 652).

The business which comes before the Annual District Synod when consisting of Ministers and Laymen, is varied and important.

FINANCIAL AND GENERAL AFFAIRS.

1. *Home Mission and Contingent Fund*.—That which relates to the Home Mission and Contingent Fund is taken first. The Yearly Collection from each Circuit is paid in; the total amount of collections and subscriptions to the Fund is ascertained; and the District Synod proceeds to distribute the sums placed by the Conference at its disposal. The present form of the question in District Synods is, "Does this sum equal the average amount raised in the District in the three years, 1890, 1891, and 1892? If so, how is the amount conditionally placed at the disposal of the District now apportioned?" See *Legislation Rescinded*, p. 269. Any claim for Extraordinary Deficiencies, under the several heads of "Removal Expenses," "Afflictions," "Circuit Travelling," "Circuit Supplies," "Furniture for additional Ministerial Houses," "Grants to Increase

Allowances," Miscellaneous and Connexional expenses, is then considered, and, if approved, is recommended to the Home Missionary Committee and the Conference. See *Grants to Assistant Circuits*, p. 271. The subject of the provision of additional Ministers' houses is next taken up. The District Home Mission Committee presents its Report of the work done in the District by the Lay Agents, if any, whom it recognises, and by other than Lay Agents; also of the Army and Navy work in the District and of the Seamen's Missionary (1878, p. 217). Afterwards the District Sustentation Fund Committee brings in its Report.

2. *Local Preachers*.—The Conference directs that the question shall be asked in each District Synod, "What is done in the several Circuits of this District to afford Local Preachers mental and theological culture?" At the September Synod a District Local Preachers' Committee is appointed, the Lay members of which become members of the Synod (1894, p. 315). The Conference directs this Committee as follows:—

(a) The Local Secretary shall, immediately after the March Local Preachers' Meeting, report to the District Local Preachers' Committee, on forms to be prepared, the various statistical facts relating to Local Preachers in that Circuit.

(b) The District Local Preachers' Committee shall prepare a Report based upon the statistics so furnished, and relating to the work of the year, to be presented to the May Synod.

(c) Immediately after the May Synod the Reports of the District Local Preachers' Committees shall be sent to the Lay Secretary of the Connexional Committee, which shall report thereon to the Conference (1895, pp. 312, 313). See p. 219.

For *Connexional Local Preachers' Committee*, see p. 220.

3. *Circuit Arrangements*.—The Meeting next proceeds to consider proposals for the division of any Circuit within the District, or the alteration of the boundaries of two or more Circuits; together with applications for additional Ministers, for the appointment of a Home Missionary Minister, or for the lessening of the number of Ministers.

4. *Election of Representatives*.—The business of the election

of Representatives to the Conference is frequently assigned to an earlier position in the order of business, so as to insure the presence of all the Lay members of the Meeting. The Representative to the Stationing Committee is first chosen, by the united votes of the Ministers and Laymen (1870, vol. xviii. p. 154).¹ No Preacher on Trial has a right to vote (1840, vol. ix. p. 105). The Lay Representatives to the ensuing Conference when consisting of Ministers and Laymen, "are elected by the separate votes of the Laymen, taken by ballot after nomination; such nomination belonging to the Lay Members of the Meeting only" (1877, vol. xx. p. 421).

"No Layman is eligible as a Representative unless he be a Member of Society of five years' continuous standing, and, at the time of his nomination in the District Synod, a holder of office as a Trustee of Connexional Property, a Member of a Circuit Quarterly Meeting, or a Member of a District Synod. He must be a Member of Society in some Circuit within the District where he is nominated" (1877, vol. xx. p. 420). See pp. 44, 45.

5. *Substitutes for Representatives.*—Substitutes for Representatives to the Conference are provided for as follows:—

"In the event of one or more of the Ministers or Laymen elected to attend the Conference in its Representative Session being unable to fulfil their appointments, they shall inform the Chairman of the District before the beginning of the Representative Session, and their place or places shall then be taken by the person or persons who received the highest number of votes next to those elected" (1895, pp. 325, 326).

6. *The Nomination of Members of Mixed Connexional Committees.*—The nomination of Members of Mixed Connexional Committees forms an important part of the business of this Session of the Synod. The Chairman of the District is *ex officio* a Member of the Home Mission and Contingent Fund Committee; and a Layman is to be recommended by the

¹ The District Synods shall not interfere with the Stations of the Preachers (1805, vol. ii. p. 289).

Synod for appointment on this Committee by the Conference. Also the nomination of a Minister and a Layman to be recommended to the Conference for appointment as Members of the Education Committee; and the nomination of a Minister and a Layman to be recommended for appointment as Members of the Committee of the Fund for the Extension of Methodism in Great Britain. This last nomination belongs only to the District Committees of Districts in England (1881, pp. 273, 276). See pp. 440-449.

7. *Auxiliary Fund*.—In connection with the business of the Worn-out Ministers' and Ministers' Widows' Auxiliary Fund, the District Treasurer reports the contributions to the Fund from the several Circuits, including the amount of the Private Subscriptions and of the Public Collections. The District Synod considers any peculiar case of affliction or distress to be recommended to the Committee of this Fund.

8. *Foreign Missions*.—The Report of the District Treasurer of this Fund is presented, and inquiries made respecting the efficient working of the Circuit organisations on behalf of our Foreign Missions, and the proper application of the sums raised by the Juvenile Home and Foreign Missionary Associations (1885, p. 195).

9. *Chapel Affairs*.—Chapel affairs come next in order. Applications for relief by grant are considered; proposals to erect, purchase, enlarge, or sell any Chapel or other Trust Property, or to introduce an organ into any Chapel, are carefully gone into; and inquiries are made whether any Chapel or Schoolhouse has been opened or reopened since the last District Synod, and if so, whether the conditions agreed upon with the General Chapel Committee have been fulfilled, and whether any Chapel or other Trust Property has been erected, purchased, enlarged, or sold, for which the consent of the Chapel Committee had not been obtained? The state of those Trusts in the case of which, according to returns previously made, the Regulations of the Conference had *not* been observed, is care-

fully investigated. A question is next asked respecting applications made to the Charity Commissioners, or to any Court of Law or Equity, respecting any Wesleyan Trust Property in the District; whether such applications were duly sanctioned, and what has been the result; and then the District Chapel Committee presents its Report, and the District Synod records its opinion of the facts and suggestions which it contains.

10. *Education Affairs.*—The Educational affairs of the District next come under consideration. The number and state of the Sunday, Week Day, and Infant Schools are reported; the efforts made to promote the formation and success of such Schools are inquired into, and the question is asked, “Whether any Wesleyan Day School has been discontinued, or transferred to other management, since the last May District Synod, and if so, whether the directions of the Conference relating thereto have been observed?”

11. *Adult Bible Classes.*—An Annual Return of the Members of these Classes shall be made to the District Synods in May through the Education Committees of the Districts, and shall be by them reported to the Sunday School Union Committee, and by it forwarded to the Conference (1895, p. 258).

12. *Fund for the Maintenance and Education of Ministers' Children.*—The business of the Fund for the Maintenance and Education of Ministers' Children is then entered upon; various data bearing upon the working of this Fund being supplied.

13. *Temperance Work and the Lord's Day.*—The District Temperance Secretary nexts presents his Report of the Temperance Work in the District during the year. The Conference resolves that the Temperance Committee of each District shall take direct oversight of the Lord's Day question (1896, p. 331).

14. *Collections and Subscriptions.*—Inquiries are then made respecting the amount of the Collections and Subscriptions to our several Funds and their due remittance.

15. *Resolutions provisionally adopted by the previous Conference.*—The financial and general affairs of the District

having thus passed under review, the District Synod proceeds to consider any Resolutions provisionally adopted by the preceding Conference during its Representative Session, which have to be submitted to the several District Synods in Great Britain when consisting of Ministers and Laymen, and to record their judgment respecting them (1877, vol. xx. p. 424).

It is also provided by a Rule passed in 1815, that “no new proposal which is designed to effect a *general* augmentation of the income of the Preachers in the Connexion at large, shall be definitely adopted as a Rule, until it shall have received the assent of a majority of the District Synods throughout the kingdom, at the time when the financial affairs of the Districts are transacted” (1815, vol. iv. pp. 130, 131).

16. *Suggestions to the Conference.*—The District Synod then deliberates upon any Suggestion to the ensuing Conference which any Member of the Committee may propose. It is usual to give notice at an earlier part of the Meeting of any proposal it is intended to bring forward. The Conference directs as follows:—

1. A copy of any Suggestion from a District Synod to the Conference, which relates to any Connexional Department, shall be sent, immediately after the District Synod, to the Secretary of the Department concerned (1891, p. 323).

2. The Convener of the Conference Committee on Memorials from Circuits, and Suggestions from District Synods, is authorised to obtain, immediately after the Annual District Synods, from the Secretaries of the District Synods, copies of any Suggestions which may have been made.

3. Nothing shall be deemed to be a Suggestion of a District Synod but what is recorded in answer to the question on the subject in the District Minutes (1872, vol. xviii. p. 652).

17. *Reports of Special Committees.*—In some years the Conference directs that the Reports of Special Committees appointed to sit during the year shall be laid before the several District Synods in May; so that the *final* Reports of those Committees, to be presented to the ensuing Conference,

shall be framed after a careful consideration of the views expressed by the several District Synods. These Reports are introduced during the Pastoral or Representative Session of the District Synod, according to the nature of the subjects to which they refer, and at such times as may be deemed desirable. "The Conference directs that all Reports of Committees referred to the consideration of District Synods shall be forwarded to the Members of each Synod not later than the first of May in each year" (1878, p. 188).

It will be obvious that the mass of business which comes under these various heads will, in large Districts, often require more than a single day for its transaction; in which case the Lay Members of the Synod are requested to join the Ministers on the following morning, and to remain until all the matters now specified have been dealt with. It is often found also to be expedient to deviate from the precise *Order of Business* which has now been stated, so as to procure the presence of the largest number of Laymen when the most important subjects are considered; and the Chairman of the District, with the consent of the Synod, exercises his discretion in the matter.

PASTORAL SESSION—(*continued*).

When the Mixed Session has completed its business, the Ministers resume their Pastoral Session, and take up any questions which they may have left over from their former sittings. Reports of Special Committees referred to the District Synod when Ministers only are present, if any, must be considered (see p. 136).

Election of Ministerial Representatives.—The Synod then proceeds to elect the Ministers to represent the District at the ensuing Conference in its Representative Session. The election is made by ballot after nomination from among the whole number of Ministers in the District who may express a

desire to attend the Conference (1886, p. 199). The Ministers so elected also attend the Conference in its Pastoral Session (1886, p. 199). When this has been settled, it is then decided what other Ministers, in addition to those elected as Representatives, shall attend the Pastoral Session of the ensuing Conference. The number allocated to each District is stated in the Minutes of the preceding Conference; but this number does not include the Chairman of the District, nor Members of the Legal Conference who may declare at the May District Synod their intention to attend the Conference, nor Ministers chosen by the preceding Conference to complete the representation of Departments, nor any Assistant-Secretary of the Conference who may not be a Member of the Legal Conference. All these are recognised as Members of the Conference during its Representative Session, besides those elected by the District Synod (1877, vol. xx. p. 420). See pp. 43, 44.

Ministers attending Conference.—1. The District Synods respectively shall have the right of fixing upon the Preachers who are to attend the Conference; subject, however, to the following limitations, namely—

(1) The expenses of going to and from the Conference shall be defrayed by the Circuits, or by the Preachers themselves.

(2) Let not *all* the Preachers from any Circuit ever come to the Conference; except from within such a distance of the place where it is held, as will admit of their supplying their appointments on the Lord's days; or except, in very special cases, the District Synod shall *unanimously* decide that all the Brethren in any Circuit ought to attend.

(3) Let those who have leave to attend set out as late, and return as soon, as possible.

(4) The Preachers on Trial shall not attend the Conference, unless sent for, or unless stationed within such a distance of the place where it is held, as will admit of supplying their appointments on the Lord's day.

(5) Nothing in these Rules shall be so construed as to prevent

those Preachers from attending the Conference, against whom there lies any accusation or complaint (1809, vol. iii. pp. 90, 91).

(6) A Preacher under suspension has no right to vote on any question in the Conference while his suspension is continued ; nor even to be present in its Meetings, without leave, until his own case shall be brought forward (1835, vol. vii. p. 550).

2. Considering that the Rule which requires that all the Ministers of a Circuit shall not attend the Conference, may stand unfairly in the way of some who might otherwise obtain the permission of the District Synod, more especially of Ministers appointed to solitary Stations, the Conference resolves that the Rule shall be so far modified as that any Minister shall be eligible for permission to attend, who shall satisfy the District Synod that due provision shall be made for the Ministerial and Pastoral work of the Circuit during his absence (1878, p. 188).

Suggestions to the Conference.—The last question relates to Suggestions which the District Synod when composed of Ministers only, may wish to make to the ensuing Conference. It is usual for any Minister who wishes to bring forward any such Suggestion, to give notice to the Chairman at an earlier part of the Meeting.

Such is the general outline of the business of the Annual District Synods, whose proceedings prepare the way for the transaction of some of the most important business of the Conference. A more minute specification of the business now traced in outline, is set forth in the official *Order and Form of Business directed by the Conference to be transacted in the May and September Meetings of District Synods*. This valuable Manual contains numerous extracts from the Minutes of the Conference, and should be in the possession of every Member of the Synod.

CHAPTER VIII

DISTRICT ORGANISATION : THE MINOR DISTRICT SYNOD—THE SPECIAL DISTRICT SYNOD—THE MIXED DISTRICT SYNOD—FOREIGN DISTRICT SYNODS—COURTS OF SUPERIOR JURISDICTION IN THE MISSION FIELD — WELSH WESLEYAN METHODIST ASSEMBLY OF WALES.

THE MINOR DISTRICT SYNOD.

THE Minor District Synod was instituted in the year 1793, as affording a convenient and suitable method of investigating charges preferred against Ministers or Preachers on Trial, which must otherwise have been submitted to all the Ministers of the District.

The Minor District Synod has power to suspend a Minister or Preacher on Trial from the exercise of his functions; but in every such case the Minutes of the Synod must be sent by the Chairman of the District to the President of the Conference, when requesting that a Supply may be sent for the Preacher so suspended (1840, vol. ix. p. 94).

From the sentence of a Minor District Synod there lies an appeal to the Annual District Synod, which, indeed, is bound to review the proceedings of any Minor District Synod held before it assembles, and to record its judgment thereon. From the decision of both these Synods there lies an appeal to the Conference, of which, however, notice must be given to the Chairman of the District. A similar notice must be given in the case of an appeal from a Minor District Synod to the Annual District Synod.

Constitution of the Minor District Synod.—The Regulations adopted in the year 1793 and amended in 1894 are as follows :—

1. If any Preacher be accused of immorality, the Preacher accused and his accuser shall respectively choose two Preachers of their District ; and the Chairman of the District shall also choose two Ministers from among those stationed in the District. And the Chairman of the District shall, with the six Preachers chosen as above, try the accused Preacher ; and they shall have authority, if he be found guilty, to suspend him till the ensuing Conference, if they judge it expedient.

2. If there be any difference between the Preachers in a District, the respective parties shall choose two Preachers ; and the Chairman of the District shall choose two other Preachers ; and the Chairman, with the six Preachers so chosen, shall be final arbiters to determine the matters in dispute.

In both cases the Chairman shall have a casting voice, in case of an equality (1793, vol. i. pp. 289, 290 ; 1894, p. 217).

In the year 1870 the Conference adopted the following Rule, which is now found among its Standing Orders :—

In all cases in which the holding of a Minor District Synod is rendered necessary, such Synod, except under the Regulation passed by the Conference in 1840 (vol. ix. p. 94), shall be held in the District in which the accused party resides, the accused and the accuser selecting respectively two Ministers from the said District, and the Chairman of the District other two, the six thus chosen, together with the Chairman, to constitute the Minor District Synod (1870, vol. xviii. p. 154 ; 1894, p. 217).

To this the Conference appended the following Rule, adopted in the year 1844, which is also included in its Standing Orders :—

Should either party refuse or decline to choose two Ministers to act as Members of the Meeting, the Chairman is empowered and directed to nominate them, so that the number required by Rule may be made up (1844, vol. x. p. 91 ; 1880, p. 261).

Provision for Exceptional Cases.—The Regulation referred to as passed in 1840 was designed to meet the case of charges being preferred against a Minister who has removed from the District in which the facts are alleged to have taken place. It is as follows :—

When the accused Preacher's Circuit is so distant from the locality in which the charges arise, that, in the judgment of the Chairman of his District, sanctioned by the concurrent opinion of the President, a serious hindrance would be caused to the attendance of witnesses, it is resolved that the case *may* be tried in a Minor or Regular District Synod of that District from which the charges are preferred; but the proceedings shall be fully reported to the Chairman of the District in which the Preacher is stationed, to the May District Synod of that District, and to the President of the Conference (1840, vol. ix. p. 94).

An Accused Minister to receive a Copy of the Charge in writing.—Whenever the Chairman has received any complaint against a Preacher, either from the Preachers or the people, he shall send an exact account of the complaint in writing to the person accused, with the name of the accuser or accusers, before he calls a meeting of the District Synod to examine into the charge (1792, vol. i. p. 270).

Frivolous and Vexatious Charges.—There is one case in which the Chairman of a District is at liberty to decline the summoning of a Minor District Synod to investigate charges against a Minister or Preacher on Trial; but even in this case an appeal is allowed to the Annual District Synod, or to the Conference. The case is specified in the following Minute, adopted in 1876 :—

The Conference declares that if, in any case, it appears to the Chairman of a District that a demand for a Minor District Synod rests upon charges which are frivolous or vexatious, it is deemed to be within his discretionary power to decline to summon such a Synod, subject, however, to an appeal to the District Synod, or to the Conference, on the part of any of the persons concerned (1876, vol. xx. pp. 156, 157).

The Minor District Synod as a Court of Appeal.—The provision of the Minor District Synod is available also for another class of cases. When a Member of the Society has been expelled from it, and feels himself aggrieved by this act of the Superintendent, he is entitled to appeal to a Minor District Synod. This arrangement was adopted in the year 1835, and the Regulations are as follows :—

1. In all cases of dissatisfaction with the sentence of expulsion pronounced by a Superintendent, the aggrieved person shall have

the right of appeal to the Annual Synod of the Preachers of his District, and even, if still dissatisfied, to the Conference, who will hear him by a Committee, or by a Special Deputation, and endeavour to decide according to truth, and to the requirements of Holy Scripture, and of our Discipline.

2. But as it is readily admitted that the appeal to the full District Synod, or to the Conference, may possibly be found, practically, too inconvenient to admit of a sufficiently prompt and easy application, except in cases of extraordinary interest and importance, the Conference agrees and resolves : That the *principle* of the Rule of 1793 (see *Minutes*, vol. i. pp. 289, 290) respecting the appointment of *Minor District Synods* in the case of Preachers, shall be extended also to the case of all excluded Members who choose to avail themselves of its provisions. An excluded person shall, therefore, have the right of selecting *any two* Preachers of the District to which the Circuit belongs, the Superintendent shall select two other such Preachers, and the Chairman of the District shall also select two other such Preachers, and these six, with the Chairman of the District (or if it happens that the Chairman is himself the Superintendent whose act is impugned, then some other Preacher to be chosen by the six other Members as their Chairman *pro tempore*), shall meet in some convenient place, and shall have the power of modifying, reversing, or confirming the sentence against which such appeal shall be made. Their decision shall in such case be binding on all parties, unless subsequently altered, on further appeal, by the full District Synod, or by the Conference (1835, vol. vii. pp. 581, 582 ; 1894, pp. 217, 218).

3. In the case of the trial of an appeal against a sentence of expulsion pronounced by the Chairman of a District in the capacity of Superintendent of a Circuit, the two Members of the Minor District Synod added by the legislation of 1894 shall be nominated by the President of the Conference (1897, p. 241).

For *Trial of a Chairman*, see pp. 160, 161.

SPECIAL DISTRICT SYNOD.

Provision in lieu of the Minor District Synod for certain Extraordinary Cases.—Since 1852 there has been no right of appeal to a Minor District Synod from the verdict of a Leaders' Meeting alleged to have been adopted in the spirit of faction, and to be notoriously inconsistent with the facts proved. Should such a case occur, the appeal lies, in the first instance, to a *Special Circuit Meeting*, the constitution of which

is explained in Chapter X. of this Part of the present work. See pp. 203, 204.

This arrangement, adopted in the year 1852, when the constitution of Quarterly Meetings was first authoritatively defined, will be found, it is hoped, to render unnecessary the summoning of *Special District Synods*; but provision is made for the intervention of the collective Pastorate of a District, in certain extreme cases, to maintain godly order and discipline. This was expressly affirmed in the Rules adopted in 1852:—

In most instances it is highly probable that a verdict which, from any cause, may have been given by a Leaders' Meeting "in contradiction to law and evidence" will, on a *re-hearing* of the case by a Special Circuit Meeting, appointed by the Quarterly Meeting, be corrected. But should the result unhappily show that the spirit of faction, or any other misleading influence, so extensively prevails in the Circuit as to prevent the ordinary administration of godly discipline, in such case it is to be understood that the Superintendent retains the right of appeal to the collective Pastorate of the District; and that the District Synod may then interpose by virtue of the powers with which it was originally invested in 1791, and which from that time it has exercised in great emergencies, and may adopt such measures (disciplinary or otherwise) as it may deem necessary to meet the "critical case" in question (*Minutes*, 1791, vol. i. pp. 249, 250), and to maintain discipline and order in the disturbed Circuit "till the meeting of the next Conference, when the Chairman of the Synod shall lay the Minutes of its proceedings before the Conference."

Should the Quarterly Meeting refuse to appoint a Special Meeting to re-hear the case, or should the persons appointed refuse to give any verdict, the Superintendent may at once appeal, in the usual form, to the District Synod (1852, vol. xii. pp. 113, 114).

The Chairman of the District has Authority to Call a Meeting of the Synod.—The Chairman . . . shall have authority to call a Meeting of the Synod of his District, on any application of the Preachers or people, which appears to him to require it (1792, vol. i. p. 269; 1876, vol. xx. pp. 156, 157).

The President of the Conference in relation to the Special District Synods.—It was enacted in the year 1797 that in extraordinary emergencies the President of the Conference for the time being had a right (when applied to for the purpose) to be present at a Special

District Synod. In order to render our Districts more effective, the President of the Conference shall have power . . . to assist at any District Synod, if applied to for that purpose by the Chairman of the District, or by a majority of the Superintendents in such District. And he shall have a right, if written to by any who are concerned, to visit any Circuit and to inquire into their affairs with respect to Methodism, and, in union with the District Synod, redress any grievance (1797, vol. i. p. 395). See below.

Constitution of Special District Synods.—During the same year Special District Synods were constituted as follows:—

That no Chairman may have cause to complain of the want of power in cases which (according to his judgment) cannot be settled in the ordinary District Synod, he shall have authority to summon three of the nearest Superintendents to be incorporated with the District Synod, who shall have equal authority to vote and settle everything till the Conference (1797, vol. i. p. 395).

Amended Constitution.—The Constitution of the Special District Synods was modified in one important particular in the year 1835. They included, of course, all the Ministers in Full Connexion with the Conference stationed in the District in question. But provision is made for other parties to be associated with them. The Resolution adopted in 1797 was amended as follows:—

In reference to the constitution of *Special District Synods*, on whatever subject such Synods may hereafter be deemed necessary, and in order to render their decisions satisfactory to our people, the Conference resolves that instead of “three of the nearest Superintendents,” chosen by the Superintendent who calls the Meeting, *four* Superintendents, or *other* Preachers, may be called in, if either party desire such assistance, and be incorporated with the Preachers stationed in the District. Of these, *two shall be chosen by each of the two parties* concerned in the affairs to be settled by the Synod. The parties may severally make choice of Preachers in whom they have most confidence, from *any* District, *without restriction as to contiguity*; and the President of the Conference, if he judge it expedient, may attend and preside in all such assemblies, according to the Regulations of 1797. The right of appeal to the Conference from the decisions of this, as of all other inferior jurisdictions, is to be considered as reserved to all parties (1835, vol. vii. p. 583).

Authority to Exclude Officers and Members.—The Conference declares that a Trustee or Trustees may be removed from the

Society, as well as any other local Officer or Officers, or Members of the Society, by the authority and direction of the District Synod, whenever a District Synod may be required to interfere with the local affairs of any disturbed Society (1852, vol. xii. p. 116).

MIXED DISTRICT SYNOD.

A Resolution was adopted in 1795, and embodied in the Plan of Pacification, to meet *the one case* of a charge formally preferred against a Minister appointed to a particular Circuit, by a *majority* of the Trustees, or a majority of the Stewards and Leaders of any Society in that Circuit, as being immoral, erroneous in doctrine, deficient in abilities, or as having broken some one or more of certain new Regulations then agreed upon.

1. The arrangement in question occurs in a series of Resolutions, intended to define and limit the power of Trustees, as to the Supply of the pulpits of which they are put in trust:—

The appointment of Preachers shall remain solely with the Conference; and no Trustee, or number of Trustees, shall expel or exclude from their Chapel or Chapels any Preacher so appointed.

Nevertheless, if the majority of the Trustees, or the majority of the Stewards and Leaders, of any Society believe that any Preacher appointed for their Circuit is immoral, erroneous in doctrine, deficient in abilities, or that he has broken any of the Rules above mentioned, they shall have authority to summon the Preachers of the District, and all the Trustees, Stewards, and Leaders of the Circuit, to meet in their Chapel on a day and hour appointed (sufficient time being given). The Chairman of the District shall be the President of the Assembly; and every Preacher, Trustee, Steward, and Leader shall have a single vote, the Chairman possessing also the casting voice. And if the majority of the Meeting judge that the accused Preacher is immoral, erroneous in doctrine, deficient in abilities, or has broken any of the Rules above mentioned, he shall be considered as removed from that Circuit; and the District Synod shall, as soon as possible, appoint another Preacher for that Circuit, instead of the Preacher so removed; and shall determine among themselves how the removed Preacher shall be disposed of till the Conference; and shall have authority to suspend the said Preacher from all public duties till the Conference, if they judge proper. The District Synod shall also supply, as

well as possible, the place of the removed Preacher till another Preacher be appointed. And the Preacher thus appointed, and all other Preachers, shall be subject to the above mode of trial. And if the District Synod do not appoint a Preacher for that Circuit, instead of the removed Preacher, within a month after the aforesaid removal, or do not fill up the place of the removed Preacher till another Preacher be appointed, the majority of the said Trustees, Stewards, and Leaders, being again regularly summoned, shall appoint a Preacher for the said Circuit, provided he be a Member of the Methodist Connexion, till the ensuing Conference (1795, vol. i. p. 341). See *Plan of Pacification*, pp. 506-510.

A Meeting constituted as above has been termed the *Mixed District Meeting*; but it is important to note that the expression "*the District Synod*," in the preceding quotation, applies not to this mixed Assembly, but to the Ministers of the District with the Chairman at their head.

2. The Chapel Model Deed contains a clause which provides for the summoning of a Mixed District Synod in the case of a Minister accused of either immorality, erroneousness in doctrine, or deficiency in ability, unless the question of such immorality, erroneousness in doctrine, or deficiency in ability shall have been previously inquired into and disposed of, by the Preachers for the time being appointed by the said Conference to the Circuits of the District in which the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship shall for the time being be situated, to the satisfaction of a majority of the said Trustees for the time being, and also to the satisfaction of a majority of the said Society Stewards and Leaders of Classes for the time being as aforesaid. See *The Chapel Model Deed*, pp. 570-572.

FOREIGN DISTRICT SYNODS.

Trial of Foreign Missionaries.—The trial of any Missionary who may at any time be accused of misconduct or of any departure from the Doctrines and Discipline of the Connexion, shall in all ordinary cases be left with the District Synod to which he may belong, according to the General Rules and Usages of the Methodist Conference. But the Conference may at any time recall any Missionary for any reason which it may deem sufficient; and in the intervals

between the Annual Meetings of the Conference, the Committee in London shall possess and may exercise a similar power of recall, and of putting any Missionary so recalled upon his trial, either at the ensuing Conference, or, in a case requiring immediate decision, before a Special Committee (1885, p. 345).

Special Committee.—The Special Committee to which reference is made . . . shall consist of the Ministerial Officers and Members of the Missionary Committee, together with three Ministers from each London District, who shall be annually appointed by the Conference. The President of the Conference for the time being, or in his absence an ex-President, shall preside at the Meetings of this Committee (1885, p. 345).

See *Courts of Superior Jurisdiction*, pp. 154–156.

New Legislation.—All Resolutions of both Sessions of the Conference involving new legislation, and having reference to Foreign Missions, shall be submitted to the Foreign Synods affected thereby for their opinion before being confirmed by the Conference (1896, p. 237).

Suggestions to Conference.—In the business of the Missionary Committee, year by year, all Suggestions to the Conference from the Foreign District Synods shall be reported, with the recommendation of the Committee upon each (*Journal*, 1884).

Local Preachers from Abroad.—In the case of a Local Preacher returning from a Mission Station where neither a Circuit Local Preachers' Meeting nor a Circuit Quarterly Meeting is duly constituted, the Certificate of the District Synod shall be accepted in place of the Certificate of the Circuit Superintendent (1896, p. 332).

Preachers on Trial returning from the Mission Field.—See p. 99 (3).

COURTS OF SUPERIOR JURISDICTION IN THE MISSION FIELD.

1. Courts of Superior Jurisdiction shall be constituted in such manner and for such Districts or Groups of Districts as the Conference may from time to time direct.

2. These Courts shall hear all appeals from the decisions of the District Synods concerning Discipline.

3. These Courts shall investigate and decide all questions of fact, and the Certified Records of the Courts shall be taken as conclusive evidence of what the facts are: subject always to the right of the Conference, if new and material evidence is produced, to direct a new trial.

4. The decisions of these Courts as to penalty shall be final, except that—

(1) On questions of judicial procedure, of the interpretation of law, or the definition of doctrine, an appeal shall lie to the Conference.

(2) In the case of an ordained Minister, a sentence of expulsion, or loss of one or more years in ministerial standing, shall be liable to revision by the Conference.

(3) Any similar sentence in the case of a Preacher on Trial sent out from England shall be liable to revision by the Conference, but only as affecting his relation to the Home Work.

5. Provided always—

(1) That no appeal shall be allowed to the Conference, unless the case has first been presented to the Superior Court.

(2) That in every case in which there is an appeal to the Conference from the decision of the Superior Court, or any request for revision by the Conference, it shall be sent to the Secretary of the Conference; but notice thereof shall be given to the Chairman of the Superior Court, and a copy of the appeal or request placed in his hands, within six weeks after the decision of the Court. The said copy shall be forthwith forwarded by the Chairman to the General Secretaries of the Missionary Society for the consideration of the Missionary Discipline Committee, and that Committee shall report thereon to the next Conference.

6. Provided further that every Minister or Preacher on Trial shall be subject to the Provincial and District Synods within the area of whose jurisdiction he is for the time being appointed to labour.

Constitution of Courts of Superior Jurisdiction.

1. The North India, the South India, and the Ceylon Provincial Synods, when constituted as hereafter described, shall be such Courts of Superior Jurisdiction for the Districts which they respectively include.

2. The North India Provincial Synod shall include the Calcutta, Lucknow and Benares, and Burma Districts; the South India Provincial Synod shall include the Madras, Negapatam and Trichinopoly, Hyderabad, and Mysore Districts; and the Ceylon Provincial Synod shall include all the Districts in Ceylon.

3. In the Provincial Synods each of the District Synods shall be represented by Ministers sent out from England (hereafter called European Ministers) and by Ministers taken into the work in India or Ceylon, whether Native or otherwise (hereafter called Indian Ministers and Ceylon Ministers respectively), in equal numbers.

N.B.—This section shall be in force, although in any particular District there may not be, for the time being, a sufficient number of Indian or Ceylon Ministers to complete the corresponding Indian or Ceylon representation.

4. In each of the Indian Districts the number of European

Ministers chosen to represent the District shall be one in three of the total European Staff, whether in India or on furlough; and of these the Chairman of the District shall be one.

5. The Ceylon Provincial Synod shall consist of the Chairmen of the Colombo, Kandy, and Galle Districts, with one European Minister and two Ceylon Ministers from each of these Districts; and of the Chairman and three other European Ministers, and four Ceylon Ministers from the Jaffna District.

6. All elections shall be by the united vote of the European and other Ministers.

7. Probationers shall not be eligible as Representatives.

8. Each Provincial Synod shall elect its own Chairman and Secretary (1895, pp. 218-220).

WELSH WESLEYAN METHODIST ASSEMBLY OF WALES.

The Conference sanctions the creation of a representative body to be called "The Welsh Wesleyan Methodist Assembly of Wales." This Assembly shall consist at first of twenty Ministers and twenty Laymen elected by the North Wales Synod, and ten Ministers and ten Laymen elected by the South Wales Synod, together with the Chairmen and Financial Secretaries of the two Synods, the Welsh Editor and Book Steward, the Lay Treasurers of the two Welsh Chapel Funds, and one Minister and one Layman each to represent the Welsh Churches in London and Manchester.

Each Synod shall make its own arrangements for defraying the cost of its own representatives.

The Assembly shall meet in the month of June.

The President of the Conference, instead of attending as aforetime the North and South Wales Synods in alternate years, shall always attend and preside over the Assembly, and shall be accompanied by the Home Mission Secretary, the General Chapel Secretary, and one other Minister.

The Assembly shall nominate a Minister who shall act as its President whenever the President of the Conference shall be unable to attend, such nomination to take place at the Assembly of the previous year; except that at the first Assembly, and at any subsequent Assembly at which, for any reason, the Minister previously designated is unable to preside, the Assembly shall elect a Minister, who shall immediately enter into office.

(4) The Assembly in its REPRESENTATIVE SESSION shall, in the first instance, act as a General Committee of Review of Welsh affairs:

1. The Assembly shall consider the state of the Work of God throughout the Principality. The Welsh love preaching, and much more might be done in organising Eight Days' and Fifteen Days'

Evangelistic Missions, in the employment of Welsh-speaking Connexional Evangelists, in promoting Mission methods in ill-attended chapels, in extending Sunday-school work (always a strong feature in Wales), and generally in reviving and encouraging our Welsh Churches where they are weak and declining. The presence of the Home Mission Secretary and the Secretary of the General Chapel Fund will, it is hoped, greatly promote these practical objects.

2. The interests of Foreign Missions shall be advocated at this national gathering.

3. Steps shall be taken to revive, organise, and extend the order of Local Preachers, who are far too few in Wales, and yet most urgently needed.

4. The Assembly shall carry out the scheme (already sanctioned by the Theological Institution Committee) for the training of Candidates for the Welsh Ministry in connection with the Welsh University.

5. The Assembly shall deal with Welsh Book affairs, which directly concern the whole of Wales, and cannot be satisfactorily considered by two totally distinct Synods that never meet together for mutual counsel. The great impetus to education, which is the special feature of Wales to-day, makes this question more important than ever.

6. It might also be possible to devise methods of raising the stipends of those of our Welsh Ministers who are distressingly underpaid.

7. The Assembly shall consider, in the interests of Wales, those great moral issues, such as Temperance, Social Purity, Lord's Day Observance, Anti-Gambling, and Peace, which the Conference has from time to time declared are a necessary part of the work of National Churches. On some of these questions, as, for example, Sunday Closing, Welsh opinion is so enlightened that special consideration from a Welsh standpoint is necessary.

8. The operations of both of the Welsh Chapel Funds shall be annually reported to the Assembly. It is suggested that, in view of a general Home Missionary advance, the Connexional Chapel Committee and the Extension Fund Committee might favourably consider the great and urgent needs of the South Wales Chapel Fund.

(B) In its PASTORAL SESSION :

1. The Assembly shall prepare Obituaries and take proper obituary notice of Welsh Ministers, who, in the very nature of things, can never be properly known and appreciated in the English Conference.

2. The Assembly shall consider the Stations of both Districts, and prepare a First Draft of them for submission to the Stationing Committee of the Conference.

3. Probationers for the Welsh Ministry at the end of their fourth year shall undergo their Public Examination at the Assembly, be ordained in their native land, and receive a charge in their native tongue.

N.B.—This would not interfere with their subsequent appearance before the Conference, where alone they could be received into Full Connexion.

4. The Pastoral Session of the Assembly shall issue a Special Pastoral Address to the Welsh Societies, dealing specifically with Christian Life and Work in the Principality.

(C) The Assembly shall, in the appropriate Session, consider all Welsh Memorials and Suggestions to the Conference, which will have greatly increased weight if supported by the imprimatur of a nationally representative gathering. The Assembly may also itself make Suggestions.

In forming this Assembly, the Conference anticipates that it will create among our Welsh Churches a sense of unity which cannot exist while Welsh Methodism is split into two unequal, unrelated fragments; that it will give new life, new hope, new opportunity to our people in Wales at a time when all other Churches, including even the Church of Rome, realise that a variety of circumstances have combined to make this the hour when a wise, well-directed, and national appeal to the Welsh race is more likely than at any previous period in modern history to evoke a hearty and national response (1898, p. 364, and pp. 491-493).

CHAPTER IX

DISTRICT ORGANISATION : CHAIRMEN OF DISTRICTS—FINANCIAL SECRETARIES—OTHER DISTRICT OFFICERS.

CHAIRMEN OF DISTRICTS.

1. *President of the Conference ex-officio Chairman.*

The President of the Conference shall always be, *ex officio*, Chairman of the District in which he is stationed during the year of his Presidency (1812, vol. iii. p. 294).

2. *Appointment of Chairmen.*

(1) The Chairman of every District shall be chosen by the ballot of the Conference (1797, vol. i. p. 395).

(2) In the appointment of Chairmen, the Minister elected shall have a clear majority of the total number of votes cast, and according to the Standing Order relating to elections to Departmental Offices (1886, p. 295).

3. *Substitute for Chairman.*

In case the Chairman of a District be unable to attend any Meeting of the District Synod, a Chairman for the occasion shall be elected by the Synod from among the Ministers then present (1891, p. 230).

4. *Supplying vacant Chair of District.*

In case the Chair of any District be rendered vacant by the death or incapacity of the Chairman, or otherwise, the duties and responsibilities of the Chairman shall *pro tempore* devolve upon the President of the Conference for the time being, who shall take steps, either by convening the Ministers of the District, or by correspondence with them, to obtain their suffrages for the Minister among themselves who is deemed by them best qualified to fill the vacant office ; and shall then declare and appoint the Minister thus selected to be the Chairman of that District till the ensuing Conference (1863, vol. xv. p. 541).

5. *Assistants to Chairmen.*

As cases may arise for which special provision should be made, the Home Mission Committee is empowered to make grants for Supplies, for limited periods, to assist Chairmen of Districts (1887, p. 259).

6. *Right to attend General Foreign Missionary Committee.*

The Chairman of any District who may be in London at the time of holding any Meeting of the General Committee shall be entitled to attend and to vote with the Committee (1882, p. 236).

7. *Trial of a Chairman.*

The Chairman of a District stands in so important a relation to the whole District, that a charge preferred against him cannot be brought before a Minor District Synod. Formerly any complaint arising against the Chairman of a District in reference either to his personal or official conduct could only be investigated in a full Ministerial District Synod, presided over by the President of the Conference (1863, vol. xv. p. 541). But the previously existing Regulations were superseded by the adoption, at the Conference of 1894, of the following Resolutions for the Trial of an accused Chairman:—

1. In case of any complaint arising against the Chairman of a District, in reference either to his personal or his official conduct, the accuser, after duly apprising the Chairman of his intention, shall place his complaint in the hands of the President of the Conference for the time being, who shall have authority (if he deem such a course necessary or expedient) to summon a Meeting, consisting of the President of the Conference, the Secretary of the Conference (who shall act as the Convener of the Meeting), and twelve other Ministers who are in Full Connexion with the Conference, of whom six, wherever practicable, shall be chosen from among the Ministers of the District of which the accused is Chairman (each party having the right to challenge any or all of the persons first nominated by the President), and to place the Chairman on his trial before them; when, if the guilt of the accused be proved, the Meeting shall have power to suspend him till the ensuing Conference, or to depose him from the Chair, and in that case the Members of the Synod concerned shall, as in the case of the death of a Chairman, elect another Chairman.

2. The above Resolution shall not apply to the legislation of 1835

(*Minutes*, vol. vii. p. 581) relative to the trial of an appeal against a sentence of expulsion pronounced by the Chairman of a District in the capacity of Superintendent of a Circuit (1894, p. 217). See p. 149.

For Appeal against a Sentence of Expulsion by a Chairman in the capacity of Superintendent, see p. 149.

DUTIES DEVOLVING ON CHAIRMAN.

Chairman's Responsibility.—The Chairman of each District, in conjunction with his Brethren of the Synod, shall be responsible to the Conference for the execution of the laws, as far as his District is concerned (1797, vol. i. p. 395).

Chairmen and District Synods.—(1) The Chairman of the District convenes the Financial and Annual District Synods; (2) appoints the time and place of meeting; (3) presides over the Synods; (4) is the Chairman *ex officio* of the various District Committees; and (5) is responsible to the Conference for the maintenance of discipline in his District.

Authority to Summon a Minor District Synod.—The Chairman has authority to call a Minor District Synod:—

In the case of an Accused Minister.—1. Whenever the Chairman has received any complaint against a Preacher, either from the Preachers or the people, he shall send an exact account of the complaint in writing to the person accused, with the name of the accuser or accusers, before he calls a Meeting of the District Synod to examine into the charge (1792, vol. i. p. 270).

2. If in any case it appears to the Chairman of a District that a demand for a Minor District Synod rests upon charges which are frivolous or vexatious, it is deemed to be within his discretionary power to decline to summon such a Synod, subject, however, to an appeal to the District Synod, or to the Conference, on the part of any of the persons concerned (1876, vol. xx. pp. 156, 157).

In the case of an Appeal by an excluded Member.—The Conference agrees and resolves: That the principle of the Rule of 1793 (see *Minutes*, vol. i. pp. 289, 290) respecting the appointment of Minor District Synods in the case of Preachers, shall be extended also to the case of all excluded Members who choose to avail themselves of its provisions (1835, vol. vii. pp. 581, 582).

See *Minor District Synod*, pp. 146–149.

Authority to call Special Meeting of the Synod.—The Chairman

. . . shall have authority to call a Meeting of the Synod of his District, on any application of the Preachers or people which appears to him to require it (1792, vol. i. p. 269).

See *Special District Synod*, pp. 149-152.

Authority to Summon a Mixed District Synod.—The Chairman of a District has power to summon a Mixed District Synod if any Trustees exclude a Preacher by their own *separate* authority from any Chapel in any Circuit (1795, vol. i. pp. 341, 342).

See *Mixed District Synod*, pp. 152, 153.

Chairman and Supplies.—Any Minister needing a Supply is directed to communicate with the Chairman of the District before applying to the President; and the Chairman is also to satisfy himself by personal inquiry that an efficient local Supply cannot be obtained (1889, p. 309).

Chairmen and Preachers on Trial.—The Conference directs that a copy of *Resolutions on Pastoral Work*, in pamphlet form, be presented, under the direction of the Chairman, to every Preacher on Trial in his District, on his appointment to his *first* Circuit (1885, p. 183).

Chairmen of Districts and Circuits.

1. The Chairman must never, individually, interfere with any other Circuit but his own (1792, vol. i. p. 270).

2. The Conference recommends it to the Superintendents of the Circuits to invite, on all important occasions, the Chairman of their respective District, to be present at their Quarterly Meetings (1797, vol. i. p. 395).

3. The Chairmen are directed to visit each Circuit, in their respective Districts, to which only one Minister is appointed, at least twice in each year, wherever it is at all practicable, and, if possible, at the time of holding a Quarterly Meeting (1842, vol. ix. p. 397).

4. On other occasions it may become the duty of a Chairman to visit some of the Circuits in his District. In the year 1844, in answer to the question, "How may the experience, counsel, and supervision of Chairmen of Districts be rendered more available in cases of special difficulty or emergency?" we find the following Resolution:—

Each Chairman is authorised to visit, officially, any Circuit in his District to which he shall be invited by the Superintendent;

or respecting which, after consultation with the Superintendent, he shall be satisfied that his timely assistance or intervention may be necessary or salutary, for the preservation of Christian peace and order, or for the faithful and judicious execution of our entire Connexional Economy and Discipline (1844, vol. x. p. 90). See *Special Circuit Meeting*, pp. 204, 205 (9, 10).

5. This provision for the “timely assistance or intervention” of the Chairman of a District does not empower him, except in very special cases, to supersede the Superintendent of a Circuit in the administration of Discipline. In the year 1827 the Conference adopted the two following Resolutions:—

(i.) That except in cases expressly provided for by the Conference, namely, the Circuit Quarterly Meeting and the Special Circuit Meeting, the Chairman of the District ought not so far to set aside the office and responsibility of the Superintendent of a Circuit, as to take the chair at any Meeting for the administration of Discipline in any Circuit other than his own, unless a District Synod, in special circumstances, otherwise direct.

(ii.) That, even in such special circumstances, unless a District Synod otherwise direct, the Superintendent should be responsible for administering, after consultation with the Chairman and his own colleagues, any measures of Discipline which may be deemed necessary (1827, vol. xviii. p. 650).

6. In the event of a *Special Circuit Meeting* being required in any Circuit, the Chairman of the District is to preside at that Meeting; and, in case of his unavoidable absence, he is to appoint some other Minister of the District to preside in his place (1852, vol. xii. p. 113).

For *Special Circuit Meeting*, see pp. 203-205.

7. The Chairman of a District is to take the oversight of any District Missionary who may be appointed to his District; and should the District Missionary “work in places not included in any Circuit, he is to be directed in his operation by the Chairman of the District, in conjunction with the District Home Mission Committee” (1879, p. 236).

8. In the case of any Station without a number, “in reference to which it is provided that the Minister appointed to it shall act under the direction of the Chairman of the District, the Chairman is to act as the Superintendent of that Station” (1878, p. 184).

Copies of District Minutes.

The Chairmen of Districts are required to procure *two* complete copies of the Minutes of the several Annual and other Meetings of

the District Synods, *transcribed according to the order of time in which such Meetings shall have been held*, and duly signed by the Chairman and Secretary. One of these copies shall be inserted in the District Records; the other shall be sent to one of the Assistant-Secretaries of the Conference, not later than 20th June in each year, and delivered by him to the President, during the first week of each Conference, to be preserved, under his direction, as a document appertaining to the Connexion. The several copies of the last class shall be written on foolscap paper, that they may be annually bound together in one volume.

The District Secretary is required to furnish the Chairman with such extracts from the District Minutes as he will need at the Conference (1799, vol. ii. p. 24; 1835, vol. vii. p. 554; 1877, vol. xx. p. 514; 1881, pp. 307, 308; 1890, p. 326).

District Minute Books and Connexional Documents.

The Chairmen of Districts are directed to ascertain what District Minute Books, which are filled up, or other Connexional Documents of former times, are in the Houses of our Ministers, or elsewhere in the country, and to send them to the Book Steward, to be deposited in the Fire-proof Safe which is provided at the Book-Room for Connexional Documents (1848, vol. xi. p. 111).

Circuit Records.—"The Conference urges upon all concerned the importance of securing that all Minute and Account Books of Circuits and Trusts, when no longer needed for reference, shall be placed in the Circuit Safe, or sent to the Conference Office for secure keeping" (1896, p. 332).

See *Custody of Connexional Documents*, p. 77.

Chairmen of Districts and the Conference.

The Chairman as the Official Representative of the District is charged with the responsibility of presenting to the Yearly Conference the various Resolutions, Recommendations, Suggestions, and Findings of the Financial and Annual District Synods. He is also directed to report in full the proceedings of any Minor District Synod held during the year. As the Chairman he has to answer the several questions which are officially asked in each Conference with regard to the Ministers and Preachers in his District. He has also to supply such information con-

cerning the affairs of his District as may be required during the transaction of the business of the Conference both in its Pastoral and Representative Sessions.

Committee on Circuit Travelling.

During the Representative Session of the Conference, a Committee consisting of one Minister and one Layman from each District is appointed to consider Applications for Grants towards Circuit Travelling for the ensuing year. The Chairman is responsible for representing to this Committee the claims of any Minister stationed in his District for whom the allowance for Circuit Travelling is necessary.

The decisions of this Committee are reported by the Home Mission Secretary to the Annual District Synods (1880, p. 218).

FINANCIAL SECRETARIES.

The Financial District Synod was appointed to be held annually in each District in the month of September, at the Conference of 1820, the place of meeting to be determined by the Chairman, and the time to be so fixed by him as to precede the Michaelmas Quarterly Meetings (1820, vol. v. pp. 142, 143).

It was not until the Conference of 1831 that District Financial Secretaries were appointed, when it was agreed that—

A Financial Secretary shall be appointed to each District, whose office it shall be to transact with the General Treasurers of our various Funds all the Financial Business of the District to which he belongs (1831, vol. vii. p. 67).

The Financial Secretary of each District is appointed by the Conference on the nomination of the Chairman. The Annual Synod elects its own Secretary by ballot.

Before the appointment of District Financial Secretaries, the Chairmen of Districts were required to collect from all the Superintendents of Circuits in their respective Districts the moneys due from them on account of the Collections and Subscriptions made in their several Circuits to the various Funds of the Connexion; and to deliver the same *in one sum*, with the proper account of the particular items, to the

Treasurers of those Funds respectively, at each Conference. "For this purpose the Treasurers and Secretaries of each Fund were directed to attend in rooms to be appointed for that use." To enable the Chairman to comply with these Regulations, the Superintendents of Circuits were required to supply their respective Chairmen with their Collections and Accounts on or before the first day of every Conference (1827, vol. vi. pp. 282, 283).

Duties of Financial Secretaries.—The appointment of District Financial Secretaries whose office was "to transact with the General Treasurers of the various Funds all the Financial Business of the Districts," relieved the Chairmen of Districts of these financial duties.

The Conference has subsequently fixed the times when the Public Collections are to be made in all the Circuits, and the dates when the Annual Subscriptions are due, and a List is published annually in the Minutes of the Conference. The names and addresses of the Treasurers or Secretaries of the several Connexional Funds are given, and Superintendent Ministers and Circuit and District Treasurers are earnestly requested to remit promptly all Connexional moneys. The payments, therefore, to the several Connexional Funds, previously made through the District Financial Secretaries, are now sent direct to the respective Treasurers during the year.

The duties of Financial Secretaries are to prepare and present to the Financial District Synods an Assessment upon the various Circuits of the District on behalf of the Maintenance Section of the Ministers' Children's Fund, and to furnish the District Treasurer with a copy of it after it has passed the Synod. It is also their duty to record the proceedings of the Synod, and to supply each Member with a printed summary of the same. In connexion with the Annual Meeting of the Synod in May, of which they are as a rule the Secretaries, they prepare Schedules of Membership and Connexional Finance, and in many Districts compile a complete Agenda, which greatly

facilitates the transaction of business. They also receive and remit to their respective Treasurers, the Yearly Collection and the balance of other Contributions due from the Circuits of the District to the various Connexional Funds. On behalf of the Chairman of the District, and according to the Standing Order of the Conference, they provide, with the help of an Assistant-Secretary, "two complete copies of the Minutes of the several Annual and other Meetings of the District Synods, transcribed according to the order of time in which such Synods shall have been held, and duly signed by the Chairman and Secretary" (1897, p. 375). One of these is inserted in the District Records, and the other is sent to the Senior Assistant Secretary of the Conference. They also furnish the Chairman of the District with such extracts from the District Minutes as he will need at the Conference, and the Secretaries of the different Connexional Departments with all Reports and Resolutions of the Synod relating to each Department. "The official copies of the District Minutes shall include the entire Minutes of all Meetings of the District Synods held during the year" (1887, vol. xx. p. 514). At the Conference they receive the Grants from the Home Mission and Contingent Fund to Circuits Ministers which may not have been previously paid; the Educational Allowances for Ministers' Children; also the allowances to Supernumerary Ministers and Ministers' Widows residing in the District, from the Auxiliary Fund, together with the Annuities to which they may be entitled from the Methodist Preachers' Annuitant Society. These amounts they remit either direct or through the Superintendents.

District Treasurer of the Ministers' Children's Fund.—The District Treasurer of the Children's Fund receives the amounts due to that Fund on behalf of Maintenance from the Circuit Stewards of those Circuits which are assessed in excess of the Connexional Allowance to the Children of the Ministers stationed in them; and makes payments to the Circuit

Stewards of those Circuits in which the Connexional Allowance to the Children upon them is in excess of the District Assessment. He also meets the claims of the Children of Supernumerary and Deceased Ministers in the District. The cases of Children born during the year are to be met as they arise, by arrangement between him and the Circuit Stewards (1868, vol. xvii. p. 371). It is also his duty to remit each quarter to the General Treasurer any balance due from the District, and in connexion with the final remittance for the year, to forward early in July, a Schedule provided for the purpose, showing all the transactions on behalf of the Fund in the course of the year.

District Treasurer of the Worn-out Ministers' and Ministers' Widows' Auxiliary Fund.—The District Treasurer of the Worn-out Ministers' and Ministers' Widows' Fund receives the contributions promised in the Classes to this Fund at the September Visitation, and should remit the amount to the Ministerial General Treasurer not later than the end of January (1897, p. 395). At the Annual Meeting of the Synod in May, he presents a Report of the state of the Fund in the several Circuits of the District, including the Private Subscriptions solicited in May, and the Public Collection made in July.

District Treasurer of the Foreign Missionary Society.—The District Treasurer of the Foreign Missionary Society receives the amounts raised in the several Circuits for Foreign Missions, after local expenses have been deducted, and remits them to the Deputy Treasurer of the Society. Both Circuit and District Treasurers are required by the Regulations of the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society to make remittances at least once a month, and the Conference has requested Circuit Treasurers to remit to the District Treasurers whenever they have Five Pounds in hand, and District Treasurers to remit to the Mission Home whenever they have Twenty-Five Pounds in hand from any source.

Treasurer of the District Sustentation Fund.—The Treasurer of the District Sustentation Fund takes charge of the amounts contributed to that Fund, and makes the payments authorised by the Committee.

Probationers' District Examination Secretary.—The duties of the Probationers' Examination Secretary are to take charge of the Central Examination of the Preachers on Trial in the District, to forward the Examination Papers written by them to the General Secretaries, and to report the results of the Examination together with the Course of Reading pursued by the Preachers on Trial during the year to the Annual Synod in May. It is also his duty to forward the judgment of the Synod on the Examination and Book-lists to the General Secretaries. See pp. 96–98.

District Education Secretary.—The District Education Secretary's duties are to collect and classify the Day and Sunday School Schedules which have been presented to the March Quarterly Meetings, and to bring them under the consideration of the District Education Committee, at a Meeting held prior to the Annual District Synod. The Report and Suggestions of that Committee are presented by him to the full Synod, and any Resolutions it may pass on the subject of Education are forwarded to the General Secretaries of the Day and Sunday School Departments, together with the Circuit and District Schedules. He is also responsible for the Examination of the Pupil Teachers of the District in Religious Knowledge, wherever the Financial Synod shall arrange for Central Examinations.

District Chapel Secretary.—The duties of the Ministerial Chapel Secretary, with whom the Conference of 1878 directed that a Layman should be associated wherever practicable, are to receive all Schedules relating to Chapel cases, and to present them to the Financial or Annual District Synod. When necessity arises during the year, it is his duty to arrange with the Chairman of the District for a Meeting of the District Chapel Committee to consider any applications. Early in April

each year the Superintendents are to forward to him the Circuit Chapel Schedules, which it is his duty to examine carefully, and lay before the District Chapel Committee. The Report of that Committee, and any Suggestions it may offer, he presents to the Annual District Synod, and forwards any Resolutions which it may pass, with all the Schedules, to the General Secretary of the Department in Manchester.

District Home Mission Secretary.—The duties of the District Home Mission Secretary are to record the proceedings of the District Home Mission Committee, and to see that its Resolutions with regard to the Agents and places under its oversight are carried out. It is in particular his duty to present to the Annual District Synod the Report of the Committee on all Home Mission Work, including the Army and Navy Work, done within the limits of the District, and the Recommendations of the Committee respecting Home Mission Grants, and any application for additional or fewer Ministers in any Circuit. The Reports, with any Suggestions which the Synod may make upon them, are afterwards forwarded to the General Secretary of the Connexional Home Mission Committee. In some Districts a Home Mission Treasurer is also appointed, whose duty it is to receive, and disburse under the direction of the District Home Mission Committee, all moneys placed at its disposal for Home Missionary Work within the District.

District Temperance Secretary.—The District Temperance Secretary receives all Schedules relating to Bands of Hope and Temperance Societies in the District, and, after submitting them to the District Temperance Committee, presents them to the Annual District Synod. They are then forwarded, together with any Resolutions of the Synod upon them, to the General Secretary of the Connexional Temperance Committee.

“The Temperance Committee of each District shall take direct oversight of the Lord’s Day question” (1896, p. 331).

CHAPTER X

CIRCUIT ADMINISTRATION : CIRCUITS—DIVISION OF CIRCUITS—
CIRCUIT QUARTERLY MEETINGS — CIRCUIT STEWARDS —
SPECIAL CIRCUIT MEETING.

THE Circuit, in the Organisation of Wesleyan Methodism, is the natural development and adaptation in the organic growth of the “United Societies.” These Societies were not isolated, but formed a United Community under the fostering care and guidance of the Wesleys. As the religious movement developed, “Assistants” and “Helpers” were employed. These Agents visited the Societies in various parts, and preached, wherever an opportunity presented itself, but ordinarily in specified localities. They were required to make the round of a number of places, and these “Rounds” were called “Circuits.” Thus the manner of the growth and the facts of the history of Methodism determined the law of Circuit Organisation.

The first Official Record of Circuits is in the Minutes of the Conference for the year 1746, in which there is the following entry : Q. “How are your Circuits now divided?” A. “Into seven.” The next question is—“Who are our Assistants?” The answer contains fifteen names, Thomas Maxfield, John Nelson, and John Bennet being of the number (vol. i. p. 33).

APPOINTMENT OF MINISTERS TO CIRCUITS AND CHAPELS.

The appointment of Preachers shall remain solely with the Conference (1795, vol. i. p. 341). See *Deed of Declaration*, p. 468.

N.B.—The Plan of Pacification provides for an exceptional

case of appointment arising out of the proceedings of a Mixed District Synod. See pp. 152, 153.

At the head of the Stations in each year the following *N.B.* is printed :—

1. Each of the places mentioned in these Stations, and numbered consecutively . . . is the head of the Circuit ; and the Minister first named is the Superintendent.

In the event of his death, resignation, or incapacity, the Minister next named, provided such Minister be in Full Connexion with the Conference and in Full Work, is the Superintendent. In case there is no Minister in Full Connexion with the Conference and in Full Work appointed to or remaining in the Circuit, the Chairman of the District is the Superintendent (1898, p. 250).

2. The Superintendent and other Minister or Ministers, stationed in or appointed to the several Circuits undermentioned, is and are appointed by the Conference to preach and to perform all acts of religious worship and Methodist discipline in each and every one of the Wesleyan Methodist Chapels already erected, or to be erected, in each Circuit respectively, within the space of twelve kalendar months, at such time or times, and in such manner, as to him or them shall seem proper ; subject, nevertheless, to the Superintendent Minister.

3. The Minister appointed to any Station without a number is the Superintendent, and is therefore entitled to preside in the Quarterly Meeting and Trustees' Meetings ; but he shall, as heretofore, act under the direction of the Chairman of the District.

Stations.—The Conference has also adopted the following Resolutions in reference to Stations :—

1. All Stations appearing on the Minutes shall be numbered, those only being excepted in which no Minister's house is provided (1866, p. 204).

2. All Stations . . . that are self-supporting, or that receive a definite Grant from the Home Mission and Contingent Fund, engaging to provide the remaining sum necessary for the support of the Ministry, shall have a number, and be entitled to have two Circuit Stewards.

3. Any Station . . . in which the support of the Ministry devolves on the Home Missionary Committee, the Station contributing only its Class and Ticket money and Quarterly Collections, or else a specified sum, shall have a number, and ought to have one Circuit Steward (1878, p. 184).

4. For Regulation relating to Stations without a number, in reference to which it is provided that the Ministers appointed thereto

shall act under the direction of the Chairman of the District, see No. 3, under the *N.B.* printed at the head of the Stations, p. 172.

Superintendents to be Ministers in Full Connexion.—In the opinion of the Conference, it is most desirable that only such Ministers as are in Full Connexion should be appointed to the office of Superintendent (1886, p. 204).

Circuits to which only one Minister is Appointed.—The Conference strongly disapproves of the practice of forming Circuits in which only one Travelling Preacher has been stationed; and resolves that, even in the cases where this plan has been introduced, or where, from some strong necessity, a Circuit of that kind may be formed in future, a change of the Preacher with some of the Brethren in the neighbouring Circuits shall be appointed, and published in the Minutes; so that no Preacher may be stationed alone without provision for such change, in any part of the Kingdom (1820, vol. v. p. 145).

Expenses of Interchanges.—The Conference directs that the expenses of interchanges between Ministers residing in various Circuits, appointed by the Conference, shall in no case fall upon the Ministers themselves, but shall be provided by the Circuits concerned, under the direction of the District Synods (1878, p. 252).

DIVISION OF CIRCUITS.

The Conference of 1809 agreed that no Circuit should be divided until such division had been approved by their respective Quarterly Meetings. But the boundaries of existing Circuits might be regulated and alterations made without dividing them, or making any new Circuit. Such arrangements the District Synods had authority to make, subject to an appeal to the Conference (1809, vol. iii. p. 92).

The Conference having considered the subject for several years, adopted the following Scheme, which provides that no "Alteration, Amalgamation, or Division of any Circuit" shall be adopted by the Conference until the proposal has been submitted to the Quarterly Meeting of the Circuit:—

1. No proposal for the alteration, amalgamation, or division of any Circuit (or Circuits) shall be adopted by the Conference until

that proposal has been submitted to the Quarterly Meeting of the Circuit (or Circuits) concerned, and to the Synods of the District (or Districts) to which the Circuit (or Circuits) may at the time belong.

2. In all ordinary cases the concurrence of the Quarterly Meeting of the Circuit (or Circuits) concerned, and of the Synod of the District (or Districts) to which such Circuit (or Circuits) may belong, shall be required, before the Conference decides in favour of any proposal for the alteration, amalgamation, or division of any Circuit (or Circuits).

3. Any District Synod shall, however—

- (i.) Have power, at its Annual Meeting, to suggest a proposal for the alteration, amalgamation, or division of any Circuit (or Circuits) within the District, and to send down that proposal for consideration by the next June Quarterly Meeting of the Circuit (or Circuits) affected by it.
- (ii.) If the Quarterly Meeting of the Circuit (or Circuits) concerned objects to the proposal, or desires that it should be modified, the objection or proposed modifications shall be reported to the District Synod at its Meeting in the September following. If that District Synod, after considering the Resolution or Resolutions of the Quarterly Meeting, adheres to its proposal, with or without modification, for the alteration, amalgamation, or division of the Circuit (or Circuits) in question, and does not approve the modification (if any) of its proposal, desired by the Quarterly Meeting, the District Synod shall remit its proposal to the Circuit (or Circuits) concerned, with a request that the proposal be reconsidered by the Quarterly Meeting.
- (iii.) The result of this reconsideration of the District Synod's proposal by the Quarterly Meeting shall be reported to the District Synod in the following May. If the Quarterly Meetings of the Circuits concerned (or either of them) continue to object to the proposed alteration, amalgamation, or division, and the District Synod, after weighing the objections which may have been alleged against its proposal, adheres to it substantially, the Resolutions of the Quarterly Meetings and those of the District Synod shall be laid before the ensuing Conference in its Representative Session, which shall have power to approve or to reject the proposal of the District Synod for the alteration, amalgamation, or division of the Circuit (or Circuits) concerned; and if it be approved by that Conference, it shall be carried out by the following Conference in its Pastoral Session.

4. Any District Synod shall have power to suggest a proposal for the alteration of any Circuit not within the boundary of the District, but adjacent thereto, in order to the adjustment of the boundaries of that Circuit in relation to those of some Circuit (or Circuits) within the District; and to recommend the proposal to the Conference, subject to the following conditions :—

- (i.) The District Synod shall send down its proposal (*a*) to the District Synod of the District to which the Circuit belongs, for consideration at its Meeting in the ensuing September, and (*b*) to the Circuit to which the proposal refers, for consideration as hereinafter provided.
- (ii.) The Synod of the District to which the Circuit belongs shall send to the Circuit a copy of any Resolution which it (the District Synod) adopts in September in reference to the proposal, with a request (*a*) that its Resolution, with the proposal, may be considered at one of the Quarterly Meetings of the Circuit prior to the month of May ensuing, and (*b*) that copies of any Resolutions which the Quarterly Meeting adopts may be sent (i.) to the District Synod which suggested the proposal, and (ii.) to the District Synod of the District to which the Circuit belongs, for consideration at their Meeting in the month of May referred to.
- (iii.) So far as any Circuits within the boundary of the District may be affected by the proposal, the Regulations of 3 shall take effect.
- (iv.) The Resolutions adopted by the two District Synods shall be forwarded to the ensuing Conference. If it be found necessary for the subject to come before the Conference for decision in its Representative Session, and it adopts a proposal for such an alteration of the Circuit as affects Stations, effect shall be given to its Resolution by the Conference of the following year in its Pastoral Session.

5. The Leaders' Meeting of any Society to which a proposed change, by alteration, amalgamation, or division, in the Circuit of which it forms a part, refers, the Trustees' Meeting of any Chapel in a Circuit to which a proposed change refers, and also the Quarterly Meeting of the Circuit, shall have the right of Appeal to the Conference in its Representative Session, when the Resolution of a District Synod with respect to the proposed change is brought before it.

The Conference further resolves to rescind all previously existing Regulations which relate to the matters dealt with by the foregoing Resolutions, with the exception of the following :—

- (i.) The Rule, adopted in 1809 : “but the boundaries of existing Circuits may be regulated, and partial alterations made, without dividing them or making any new Circuit, and

such arrangements the District Synods have authority to make, subject, however, to the decision of the Conference if there be any Appeal against them."

(ii.) The Regulation relating to Lay Representation in the Conference, Sec. xv. *Min. Conf.* 1881, p. 382 (1886, pp. 270-273).

6. The Conference resolves that, before District Synods consent to the division of any Circuit, inquiry must be made whether due attention has been paid to satisfactory arrangements for the Trust Estates affected by the proposed division, especially in reference to any debts existing thereon (1870, vol. xviii. p. 154).

Circuit Boundaries.—"Whereas difficulties have arisen from the want of accurate and recorded definitions of the boundaries of Circuits, the Conference directs that, in future, the boundaries of Circuits which are divided shall be fully stated in the Minutes of the District Synod to which they belong, and that the Secretary of the District shall send a copy of the Record to be inserted in the Minutes of the Quarterly Meetings of the Circuits concerned; and that in such cases copies of the Ordnance Maps, or some other Maps, of the localities concerned, be coloured so as to show the boundaries, and deposited in the Safes provided for the custody of the Trust Deeds of the Circuits. The Conference further directs that these arrangements be made in all cases of alteration in the boundaries of existing Circuits" (1874, vol. xix. p. 454).

CIRCUIT QUARTERLY MEETINGS.

Among the official Meetings connected with the Circuit organisation of Methodism, the Quarterly Meeting holds the most important place. This Meeting is frequently mentioned in the earlier Minutes of the Conference; but its constitution was for a long period undefined, and was, in fact, governed by local usage. In a few Circuits it was held that only the Ministers of the Circuit, the Circuit Stewards, and the Society Stewards of the several Societies comprehended in the Circuit, were properly members of the Meeting; and if other parties who had formerly filled some of these offices, and who actually held other offices of great importance, were permitted to attend, they could only take part in the proceedings by courtesy, and were not permitted to vote. In other Circuits the Leaders and Local Preachers, and in others the Trustees who were Members of the Society in the Circuit, were considered to be Members of the

Quarterly Meeting, besides the Ministers, the Circuit Stewards, and the Society and Poor Stewards. But in the year 1852 the constitution of the Quarterly Meeting was defined by the Conference, and new functions were conferred upon it.

CONSTITUTION.

1. All the Ministers and Preachers on Trial in the Circuit, and the Supernumeraries whose names appear in the printed Minutes of the Conference.

2. The Circuit Stewards, all the Society Stewards, and the Poor Stewards.

3. All the Class Leaders in the Circuit.

4. All the fully accredited Local Preachers, they being resident Members of Society in the Circuit.

5. All the Trustees of Chapels situate in places named on the Circuit Plan ; such Trustees being resident Members of Society in the Circuit (1852, vol. xii. p. 111 ; 1869, vol. xvii. p. 625 ; 1895, p. 315).

In the year 1872 the last of these Regulations was so far modified as to include Trustees who are Members of Society in the Circuit, whether resident in the Circuit or not (1872, vol. xviii. pp. 652, 653).

N.B.—When a Trustee of a Chapel withdraws or is duly excluded from the Society, he is no longer a Member of the Circuit Quarterly Meeting.

6. *The Sunday School Representatives.*—(1) The senior Superintendent of every Sunday School, who is a Member of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of at least three years' continuous standing, is *ex officio* a Member of the Quarterly Meeting.

N.B.—The word “senior” refers to seniority as Superintendent of the School, not to seniority in age.

(2) Schools with an average attendance of from one to three hundred scholars may elect a Special Representative ; and schools with an average attendance of from three to five hundred scholars may elect a second Special Representative, to the Quarterly Meeting (1894, pp. 313, 314).

(3) No person shall be deemed eligible to represent a Sunday School at the Quarterly Meeting of any Circuit in which he is not at the time a Member of the Wesleyan Methodist Church (1895, p. 341). See p. 405.

N.B.—A Minister in a Circuit “without Pastoral Charge,”

shall not, as a Minister, be a Member of the Quarterly Meeting (1888, p. 215). See pp. 119, 120.

Chairman of Meeting.—The Superintendent of the Circuit is, ex officio, the Chairman of the Quarterly Meeting, as of all other official meetings in his Circuit, with the single exception of the Special Circuit Meeting, the constitution and powers of which are afterwards explained. It is the business of the Superintendent Minister “to hold Circuit Quarterly Meetings, and therein diligently to inquire both into the spiritual and temporal state of each Society” (1749, vol. i. p. 44). The Superintendent fixes the time of the Quarterly Meeting, usually very near the regular quarter-days, and announces the time on the Circuit Plan.

Jurisdiction.—The jurisdiction of the Quarterly Meeting is limited to the Circuit to which it belongs, but its business is varied and important. The financial affairs of the Circuit, so far as they bear on the support of the Ministry, devolve upon it. Besides administering the financial affairs of the Circuit, the numbers in the several Societies in the Circuit are reported to it by the Superintendent, and a conversation usually takes place on the state of the Work of God. It invites Ministers, recommends candidates for the Ministry, sanctions applications for the erection, enlargement, or purchase of any Chapel, Schoolroom, or other Trust Property; elects Circuit Stewards, and Representatives to the District Synod; decides as to the division of Circuits; reviews Sunday and Day School and Temperance affairs and Foreign Mission accounts; Memorialises the Conference; and “any new Rule for the Societies at large” must be submitted for its consideration before it is binding on the Connexion at large. There is also other general and special business which belongs to the Quarterly Meeting, which is the chief local Court of Methodism.

The functions of the Quarterly Meeting, however, are chiefly administrative. It has no disciplinary powers, and cannot try

or censure any Officer or Member. Further, it is not a Court of Appeal in disciplinary cases.

The Conference declares that the proposal to constitute the Quarterly Meeting of each Circuit a Court of Final Appeal against a sentence founded on the previous proceedings of a Leaders' Meeting is altogether inadmissible (1850, vol. xi. p. 468). See *Special Circuit Meeting*, pp. 203-205.

The Ballot.—1. The Conference declares that the practice of voting by ballot in the administration of Methodism in our Circuits is contrary to long-established usage, and that its adoption would in various ways be injurious to the interests of our Societies (1884, p. 191).

2. The Conference resolves that at the elections in Quarterly Meetings of the Representatives to the District Synods, the usage of open voting may be departed from, and the election decided by ballot, after nomination by Lay Members of the Meeting. See p. 196.

3. In respect of all other elections made at Quarterly Meetings, the Conference re-affirms its Regulation of 1884 (1893, p. 319).

Dissolution of Meeting.—Q. It appears that, in a few Quarterly Meetings, the Superintendent and the other Travelling Preachers have been desired to withdraw on certain occasions. What is the judgment of the Conference on this point? A. We judge that if the Superintendent of a Circuit, or any of his Colleagues, be obliged to withdraw from a Quarterly Meeting during its sittings, the Meeting will be thereby dissolved, and we will receive no letters or information from such Meeting on any account. And if any Superintendent, or other Travelling Preacher, do willingly submit to any such requisition, so as to withdraw from any such Meeting before its conclusion, he shall, on proof, receive due censure at the ensuing Conference (1806, vol. ii. p. 347).

GENERAL REGULATIONS AFFECTING CIRCUIT QUARTERLY MEETINGS.

SOURCES OF CIRCUIT INCOME.

The chief sources of Circuit Quarterly Meeting Income are: Contributions in the Classes; Collections in the Chapels; Weekly Offertory; Grants from the Chapel Trustees; and Grants to Dependent Circuits from the Home Mission and Contingent Fund.

OFFERTORY SYSTEM.

The following Recommendations and Regulations were adopted by the Conference of 1889 :—

1. The Conference recommends that in every Chapel in which the Offertory System has been introduced, as well as in all other Chapels, the Connexional Collections shall be made on Sundays set apart for the purpose, shall be duly announced beforehand, the objects and need of the Fund concerned distinctly stated, and an appeal made, and the whole sum so gathered strictly devoted to the stated purpose.

2. The Conference recommends that where the aggregate results of the Weekly Offertory System show an increase of Circuit income (derived from the same sources) over that of years antecedent to the introduction of the System, the Connexional Funds, whether they have suffered or not, shall equitably share in such increased income ; and that this object shall be secured by Offertories specially appropriated for this purpose or otherwise.

3. The Conference expresses its strong objection to the practice of allotting to the Connexional Funds any *average* sum, *i.e.* a proportion of the yearly receipts from the Offertory, calculated upon the average collections for a given Fund during a number of years preceding the introduction of the Offertory, in lieu of making Collections for each Fund according to Rule. Such a practice is unfair to the several Funds, which are thus precluded from sharing in the general life and progress of the Circuit, and is further liable to the fatal objection that it shuts out all opportunity of bringing the various Funds and their claims before our Congregations.

4. The Conference is of opinion that the Offertory System should not be adopted in any Chapel without the consent of the Circuit Quarterly Meeting (1889, pp. 286, 287).

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM TRUST FUNDS.

1. The Chapel Model Deed contains the following clause referring to the appropriation of surplus money :—

And upon further trust, from time to time to pay and apply any surplus money, remaining after the due payment of all such lawful debts, costs, charges, incumbrances, and expenses as aforesaid (but according, and in conformity to the general rules and usage of the said people called Methodists), for, or towards, the support of the Preacher or Preachers, for the time being respectively appointed by the said Conference . . . either in the Circuit in which the said Chapel, or place of religious worship, shall for the time being be

situated, or in that and some other Circuit or Circuits, or in some other Circuit or Circuits only . . . See *Chapel Model Deed*, pp. 554-594.

2. The Compendium of Regulations of the Conference respecting Wesleyan Methodist Trust Property contains the following :—

(i.) Trustees applying to the Chapel Committee for Relief by Loans without interest shall engage to “appropriate the surplus proceeds of their Trust Property to the support and extension of the Work of God in their Circuits, or in aid of Connexional Institutions” (1866, vol. xvi. p. 570).

(ii.) Superintendents shall request Trustees of Chapels to vote to the Circuit Funds as much as can be afforded out of their Trust Income (1866, vol. xvi. p. 568).

3. The Conference of 1889 adopted the following Resolution with regard to “Aid to Chapels without Seat-rents” :—

The Chapel Committee shall have liberty to assist . . . in the erection of Chapels in which no seat-rents are to be charged, and in the payment of debts on such Chapels, provided . . . that it shall be proved that an income can be obtained from other sources sufficient to meet all the expenses of the Trust, to provide for an Annual Subscription to the Chapel Fund, and for such assistance to the Circuit Funds and other objects as would have been given if seat-rents had been charged (1889, p. 224).

ARMY AND NAVY CAPITATION PAYMENTS.

1. In all cases where the Capitation Payment, other than the amount paid for seat-rents, is assigned to the Circuit Funds, the Minister responsible for the Army and Navy work shall be proportionally relieved of other Circuit duties (1890, pp. 257, 258).

2. Wherever Capitation Payments are received on behalf of our Wesleyan Soldiers and Seamen, the pastoral duties which are entailed thereby shall be strictly fulfilled, and every facility and encouragement given to the men, their wives and families, to become attached to the services of the Chapels in which, by these payments, they are now seat-holders (1889, p. 319). See pp. 281-283.

Army and Navy Returns.—See p. 282 (8).

DISTRICT SUSTENTATION FUND.

While heartily approving of the efforts which are being made to increase the Allowances of Ministers when they are manifestly insufficient, the Conference especially expresses its satisfaction with

what has been accomplished by means of District Sustentation Funds, and repeats the recommendation that in all Districts a Sustentation Fund be established, and that those Districts which have, or can obtain, a surplus should send it to the General Treasurers [of the Home Mission and Contingent Fund], in order that it may be used for the benefit of Districts less favourably situated (1876, vol. xx. p. 208).

For the principles on which the receipts from the surplus of District Sustentation Funds are to be administered by the Home Mission Committee, see *Minutes*, 1875, vol. xix. p. 683. See pp. 286, 287.

CIRCUIT DEFICIENCIES AND DEPENDENT CIRCUITS.

1. All those expenses for the support of the Ministry for which the Circuit cannot provide, and therefore needs assistance from the Contingent Fund, must be sanctioned by the Quarterly Meeting before they can be brought to the District Synod (1869, vol. xvii. p. 625).

2. Whilst every consideration and sufficient assistance should be afforded—by ordinary Grants—to Circuits that are financially unable to provide for the support of their Ministers, the Conference directs each District Synod to encourage Circuits that are capable of becoming self-supporting to declare themselves independent of the Home Mission Fund, thereby adding to their own vigour and enterprise, as well as making the Grants now received by them available for aggressive work in other parts of the District (1880, pp. 218, 219).

MINISTERS' CHILDREN'S ALLOWANCES.

The Regulations governing the administration of the Ministers' Children's Fund in both its branches of Maintenance and Education, and the basis of calculation, are given in connexion with the Fund for the Maintenance and Education of Ministers' Children. See pp. 343-364.

The following Regulations affect the Circuit Quarterly Meeting:—

Children's Allowances for Maintenance.—1. The Circuit Stewards of every Circuit shall be expected to pay the regular Allowances for Children (by quarterly instalments, as usual) to those Preachers, stationed for the time being in their Circuit, who are entitled to receive such Allowances, according to our existing Rules (1819, vol. v. p. 45).

N.B.—In 1806 the Conference advised that in all the Circuits the Allowance for Preachers' Children should be raised to Six Guineas

per annum (1806, vol. ii. p. 347). In some Circuits a larger sum is given.

2. The Preachers are permitted to receive the usual and regular Allowances for their Children . . . until they attain the age of twenty years, unless, by marriage or otherwise, they shall at an earlier period become independent of their parents in point of pecuniary support (1814, vol. iv. p. 37).

3. In 1893 the Conference resolved: "That, for the next ten years, the twentieth year of Maintenance Allowance be withdrawn. This decision shall be reconsidered at the Conference of 1903, or earlier, if the state of the Fund shall warrant it" (1893, p. 251).

Commencement and Cessation of Claims.—The usual quarterly Allowance to Children having regular claims on the Children's Fund shall only commence on the first quarter-day after their birth; one quarter's Allowance in advance shall then be considered as becoming due, and the same sum as due on every succeeding quarter-day (except in the case of boys [and girls] while at our Connexional Schools) until they attain to that age at which, according to our established Rules, the Allowances finally cease to be claimable (1820, vol. v. p. 139). See p. 350.

N.B.—Preachers who marry Widows (other than Preachers' Widows) having Children, have no claim for such Children on any of our Funds (see 1798, vol. i. p. 431).

Children Born during the Year.—In 1868 the Conference rescinded the then existing Rule affecting "payments to Children born during the year, and whose names are not contained in the Returns laid before the preceding Conference or the Financial District Synod." It resolved that "all such cases shall henceforth be met as they may arise, by arrangement between the Circuit Stewards and the District Treasurers of the Children's Fund" (1868, vol. xvii. p. 371).

Children Dying during the Year.—In case of the death of any regular claimant on this Fund, the parents or guardians of such deceased claimant shall be entitled to receive a sum equal to a whole year's Allowance, in lieu of the quarterly payment due at the quarter-day next after such decease, to be a final Grant from the Fund towards the expenses of affliction and burial (1870, vol. xviii. p. 131).

N.B.—The Conference, in 1896, directed that the above Regulation should apply to the case of Infants dying before payment has become due (*Journal*, 1896).

N.B.—A Minister received at once into Full Connexion from

another Conference or Church, having a Child or Children, must, when so admitted or within six months thereafter, pay compensation to the Children's Fund in order to give such Child or Children a claim on the Fund. A similar Rule covers the case of a married Probationer having a Child or Children. (See 1881, pp. 230, 231.) For amount of compensation, see pp. 85-87.

Children's Allowances for Education.—The Conference allocates to each District a specified sum to assist in providing Educational Allowances; and, at the Financial District Synods, each Circuit, according to its resources, has a definite sum assigned to it, to be paid by the Circuit Stewards to the Treasurers of the Children's Fund (1897, p. 255).

For Regulations as to Educational Allowances, see pp. 352, 353.

MINISTERIAL SUPPLIES.

1. Any Minister needing a Supply is directed to communicate with the Chairman of the District before applying to the President; and the Chairman is also directed to satisfy himself, by personal inquiry, that an efficient local Supply cannot be obtained (1889, p. 309).

2. Every Preacher sent by the President as a Supply shall be paid at the rate of thirty guineas a year for the time he is in the Circuit; this Allowance being in addition to Board and Lodging (1879, p. 229).

3. In respect of payment, the year of a trained man on the President's List of Reserve appointed in connexion with, or immediately after, the Conference, shall reckon from the first day of September to the last day of August (1887, pp. 259, 260).

4. In regard to Travelling Expenses, a Preacher sent to a Circuit as a Supply is dealt with on the same principle as one who is appointed by the Conference to his first Circuit. Once arrived in a Circuit as a Supply, he receives his Travelling Expenses from that Circuit to another when removed by the President during the year, or by the Conference at the end of the year (1889, p. 310).

5. The employment of Students as Supplies, otherwise than by the President, during their vacation, shall continue as heretofore to be matter of private arrangement, in regard to which neither the President nor the Home Mission Committee shall have responsibility, except in those special cases in which the Home Mission Committee may grant Supplies to Chairmen of Districts for short periods (1887, p. 260). See p. 93.

For Regulations concerning Supplies, see *Standing Orders of the Conference*, Part I.

ASSISTANTS TO SENIOR MINISTERS.

In reference to Assistants granted to Ministers who have travelled forty years and upwards, the Conference has resolved :—

“Except in those cases in which the Conference shall decide that the whole of the expense shall be borne by the Home Mission and Contingent Fund, the support of any Assistant who may be appointed shall be provided for as follows: One-third by the Minister assisted, or by the Circuit to which he is appointed; one-third by the Auxiliary Fund; and one-third by the Home Mission and Contingent Fund. The expense shall be calculated so as to include the amount which it may be necessary to reserve to meet prospective charges on Connexional Funds” (1893, pp. 318, 319). See p. 286.

SANITARY CONDITION OF MINISTERS' HOUSES.

1. Circuit Stewards are recommended to have an inspection of every Preacher's House by an independent sanitary expert, at every change of Minister, and to hand a certificate of the good sanitary condition of the House to the incoming Minister (1893, p. 327).

2. The District Synods shall inquire, at their September Meetings, whether, in all cases of change of Ministers, the recommendation of the Conference, that a certificate of the good sanitary condition of the Ministers' Houses should be handed to the incoming Ministers, has been carried out (1894, p. 323).

LAY AGENTS.

The Conference of 1878 decided that the time had arrived when it was desirable to employ Lay Agents on a larger scale and in a more systematic way than heretofore, and a Scheme for the employment of such by District Home Mission Committees was adopted. The Scheme is printed *in extenso* in Part III. Chapter II. in connexion with the Home Mission and Contingent Fund. The following Regulations affect the Circuit Quarterly Meetings :—

1. (i.) The District Home Mission Committee shall approve only such Lay Agents as may be approved by the Quarterly Meeting of any Circuit. (ii.) They shall superintend, in harmony with the Circuit Quarterly Meeting, or the Circuit Home Mission Committees, the transfer from Circuit to Circuit, within the District, of

duly accredited Lay Agents. (iii.) They shall determine, in conjunction with the Quarterly Meetings, or with Committees duly appointed by Quarterly Meetings of Circuits concerned, the limits of the sphere of labour of any Lay Agent; and they shall require and receive a quarterly Report of his labours.

2. No such Lay Agent shall be employed in any Circuit except on the resolution of the Quarterly Meeting; and every such Agent shall act under the immediate direction of a Committee appointed by the Quarterly Meeting. The Quarterly Meeting, or its Committee, shall have power to engage, remove, or dismiss him, giving due notice thereof to the District Home Mission Committee.

3. All Lay Agents shall be engaged subject to the following Regulations, the violation or neglect of which shall invalidate all claims to pecuniary help from the District:—

- (i.) Every such Agent must have been recommended for employment as a Lay Agent, in the first instance, by the Quarterly Meeting, or the Superintendent of the Circuit in which he was at the time a resident Member of Society.
- (ii.) He must be approved by the District Home Mission Committee.
- (iii.) No Lay Agent shall be engaged for more than one year at a time, subject to not less than one month's notice, or salary in case of dismissal, the same notice being required should he wish to resign; and no Lay Agent shall remain at the same Mission Station for a longer period than four years.
- (iv.) The means for the support of such Lay Agency shall not be derived from the ordinary income of the Quarterly Meeting, but from subscriptions and collections contributed expressly for such Lay Agency.

4. While observing the foregoing Resolutions and Regulations, two or more Circuits may combine for the employment of one or more Lay Agents.

N.B.—In the foregoing Scheme, the term Lay Agents is intended to include both men and women, who must be Members of the Wesleyan Methodist Society (1879, pp. 238, 240).

N.B.—Among the Resolutions constituting the General Basis upon which the Scheme for the employment of District Lay Agents was founded, are the following:—

1. It must be a governing principle that no interference can be allowed with the responsibility of the Superintendent Minister, or with the constitutional rights and authority of the Quarterly Meeting.

2. Such a plan for the employment of Lay Agents shall not have any authority or any necessary application in cases where such Agents are entirely supported by funds obtained within the Circuit

or Circuits immediately concerned (1879, p. 238). See also Part III. Chapter II. pp. 283-285.

Juvenile Home and Foreign Missionary Associations.—1. The Conference is decidedly of opinion that wherever sums, large or small, are collected avowedly for the Foreign or Home Missions, the whole amount should be remitted to the Treasurers of those Funds respectively, to be administered under the direction of their Committees; and that sums so remitted to the Home Mission Fund should entitle a Circuit to favourable consideration if it requests a Grant for any effort within its boundaries which may be a legitimate object for the application of moneys collected for Home Missions.

In the case of Circuits which are not in a position to ask for the appointment of a Home Missionary Minister, and to give the pledge required, but which feel the necessity of adopting some plan of *Home Missionary* operations, the subjoined allocation is allowed: One-third of the sums received to be paid to the Funds of the Foreign Missionary Society, it being expressly understood that in every case the contribution to the Foreign Missions shall be at least equal to what has been presented from Christmas Offerings, on the average of several preceding years; one-third to the Home Mission and Contingent Fund; one-third to the Circuit, to be expended in support of local movements of a *directly Home Missionary* character, under the direction of the Superintendent, and of a Committee to be appointed at the December Quarterly Meeting (1863, vol. xv. p. 528; 1877, vol. xx. p. 398).

2. The Conference directs that a Return of the gross amount collected in the various Circuits by Juvenile Missionary Associations, with the proportions of that amount allocated to the various objects, shall be made yearly at the May Meeting of the District Synods (1885, p. 195).

Chapels.—1. The consent of the Superintendent shall be necessary to every erection, enlargement, alteration, or purchase (1866, vol. xvi. p. 563).

2. No Chapel, School, or Dwelling-house shall be erected, enlarged, or purchased without the previous consent of the Quarterly Meeting of the Circuit (1866, vol. xvi. p. 563; 1869, vol. xvii. p. 626).

N.B.—The Conference declares, that not only every addition to the area of a Chapel, but the erection of a gallery, or of any adjoining room, shall, as heretofore, be considered an enlargement (1872, vol. xviii. p. 624).

See Compendium of Regulations respecting Wesleyan Methodist Trust Property, 1866, vol. xvi. pp. 562-571. See also p. 311.

Mission Chapels and Rooms.—1. The Chapel Committee is directed

to prepare a short and simple Form of Agreement, suitable for signature by persons in whose name premises are acquired for temporary occupation as Mission Rooms, defining the purposes for which the property is to be held.

2. The financial arrangements relating to such premises shall be under the direction of the Quarterly Meeting of the Circuit in which such premises are situated, or of a Committee appointed thereby, and the consent of other Connexional authorities shall not be required to such arrangements.

3. The preceding arrangements, namely, the use of the short Form of Agreement, and the exemption from the necessity of obtaining the consent of the Connexional authorities, other than the Quarterly Meeting of the Circuit, shall not be held to apply to premises taken for terms of fourteen years or upwards, or to premises taken on leases which are renewable from time to time, or beyond the period of fourteen years (1879, pp. 275, 276).

Old Chapels in Large Towns with Small Congregations.—In respect of Chapels in which the Congregations have greatly decreased, although surrounded by populations which are, for the most part, destitute and degraded, the Conference is of opinion that the sale of such Chapels should be resorted to only in exceptional circumstances. The Public Services in such Chapels, especially on Sunday evenings, should be adapted to the requirements of the people, and that a large number of free seats, comfortable and easily accessible, should be provided; and more practical interest should be shown in the domestic and social well-being of the people in the neighbourhood of such Chapels.

The Minister appointed to take charge of any such Chapel shall concentrate his labours upon that particular Chapel, and such labours shall be supplemented by suitable and sufficient Lay Agency (1885, p. 265; 1886, p. 275; 1887, pp. 361–363). See p. 239.

Methodist Councils in Large Towns.—The Conference rejoices that in various large towns, in which there are more Circuits than one, Committees consisting of Ministers and Laymen, representative of the several Circuits, have already been formed for the purpose of united action in such Evangelistic and aggressive work as can best be carried out by a union of the forces of several Circuits. The Conference believes this especially to be the case with reference to those old Chapels the congregations of which, owing to changed conditions, have greatly declined.

The Conference believes that good may result from the experiment, already tried in several places, of holding social gatherings, at which the Ministers and people belonging to different Circuits in the same town may meet each other.

The Conference does not direct the formation of such representative Committees as those alluded to above, nor does it formulate any Rules for their constitution or guidance. The Conference believes that the conditions prevailing in the various towns are so different, that more good will result if such Committees, and the movements represented by them, are the outgrowth of local sympathy and earnestness, and take shape according to the particular circumstances of each case.

The Conference commends the consideration of this subject to the attention of Circuit Quarterly Meetings and Monthly Ministers' Meetings (1889, p. 234).

Discontinuance of Day Schools.—The Conference directs that . . . when the discontinuance of a Day School is proposed, before such proposal is carried into effect, the Superintendent shall consult the Trustees, the Managing Committee, and the Subscribers; and if in any case there is a considerable division of opinion, the case shall be submitted to the Quarterly Meeting of the Circuit (1878, p. 240). See *Day Schools*, pp. 246, 247.

SPECIAL BUSINESS OF EACH QUARTERLY MEETING.

There are certain items of business which must be transacted at every Quarterly Meeting, but in addition to the ordinary business, such as (1) the Minutes of the previous Meeting; (2) the Financial Statement of the Stewards; (3) the presentation of the number of members in the Circuit by the Superintendent; and (4) the business, already specified, which belongs to *all* the Meetings—each of the four has its own *Special Business* which it may be convenient to state in order.

September.

New Rules.—At this Meeting it is binding on the Superintendent to read “any new Rule for the Societies at large” which may have been adopted by the Conference; and the Meeting has the power of suspending its operation in that Circuit during the year. The Rule on this subject, originally adopted in 1797, and modified in 1852, so as to give greater liberty of action to the Quarterly Meeting, is as follows:—

1. It is determined that if at any time the Conference see it

necessary to make any new Rule for the Societies at large, and such Rule should be objected to at the first Quarterly Meeting in any given Circuit, and if the major part of that Meeting be of opinion that the enforcing of such Rule in that Circuit will be injurious to the prosperity of that Circuit, it shall not be enforced in opposition to the judgment of such Quarterly Meeting before the second Conference. But if the Rule be confirmed by the second Conference, it shall be binding to the whole Connexion. Nevertheless, the Quarterly Meetings rejecting a new Rule, shall not, by publications, public meetings, or otherwise, make that Rule a cause of contention, but shall strive by every means to preserve the peace of the Connexion (1797, vol. i. p. 393 ; 1852, vol. xii. p. 117).

2. The Conference resolves : That the Superintendents be directed to read to the first Quarterly Meeting after each Conference, "any new Rule for the Societies at large" (1852, vol. xii. p. 117).

Payment of Ministers' Allowances.—The Conference recommends that, as far as possible, there should be throughout the Connexion a uniform method in the payment of Ministers' Allowances ; namely, that at the September Quarterly Meeting a full quarter's Allowance should be paid to each newly-appointed Minister (1894, p. 324).

Sanitary Condition of Ministers' Houses.—See p. 185.

Worn-out Ministers' Fund.—In every Circuit, at the September Quarterly Meeting, a Circuit Treasurer for the Worn-out Ministers' and Ministers' Widows' Fund shall be appointed (1869, vol. xvii. p. 626). See also 1851, vol. xi. p. 665. See *Worn-out Ministers' and Ministers' Widows' Auxiliary Fund*, pp. 365–373.

Circuit Temperance Secretaries.—The Conference recommends the appointment of a Circuit Temperance Secretary in every Circuit ; and the Superintendents are directed to send the name and address of such Secretary to the Connexional Temperance Secretary not later than the end of September. And wherever no Circuit Temperance Secretary is appointed, the Superintendents of Circuits are directed to send to the Connexional Temperance Secretary, by the same date, the names and addresses of all the Secretaries of Bands of Hope and Temperance Societies in their respective Circuits (1894, p. 304).

Circuit Missionary Committee.—The Conference resolves that, in order to bring the affairs of the Foreign Missionary Society into closer relation to the Circuit, and under more careful supervision, a Committee for each Circuit, with a Treasurer and two Secretaries (a Minister and a Layman) be appointed annually by the Sep-

tember Quarterly Meeting; that such Committee shall consist of persons who are specially interested in the work of Foreign Missions; that it shall have the entire management of all matters throughout the Circuit which affect the interests of the Missionary Society, and arrange for the collection of subscriptions, the circulation of literature, and the holding of Public Meetings, in any way it may deem the best; and that it shall present a Report of its work, with an audit of the accounts, including the date and the amount of each remittance made by the Treasurer, to the September Quarterly Meeting (1893, p. 319). See p. 193.

N.B.—In any case in which the Circuit Quarterly Meeting is satisfied with the efficiency of any Branch or Local Committee, it may sanction its continuance (1895, p. 233).

December.

At the December Quarterly Meeting the Circuit Stewards are appointed. In the statement of the functions of the Quarterly Meetings, the office of *Circuit Stewards* has been referred to, and some of the duties belonging to the office have been mentioned. It should be added, that the Circuit Stewards are the most important Lay Officers of a Circuit. They are entrusted with the management of the financial affairs of the Circuit, as such; they have, on the one hand, to consult the comfort of the Ministers, and, on the other, to care for the resources of the Circuit; they are to represent the Circuit in the Meetings of the District Synod; and they are the channel through which any communications affecting the appointment of Ministers to the Circuit are to be addressed to the Stationing Committee and the Conference. The initiation of the invitation of Ministers for the ensuing year, at the March Quarterly Meeting, belongs to them; the nomination, in the first instance, resting with them. On their ceasing or declining to nominate, the matter is altogether in the hands of the Quarterly Meeting. In accordance with the provisions of the Chapel Model Deed, the Circuit Stewards, in conjunction with the Superintendent Minister, are to audit the accounts of all Trust Property settled on the Trusts of that

Deed. In regard to Circuit Stewards, as in regard to Society and Poor Stewards, the Rule is in force, that "the office of a Steward ceases at the end of the year, and no Steward shall remain in office above three years in succession, except in some extraordinary case" (Compendium of Regulations, *Minutes*, 1869, vol. xvii. p. 624).

APPOINTMENT OF CIRCUIT STEWARDS.

1. Circuit Stewards are to be appointed at a Quarterly Meeting ; the nomination being with the Superintendent, and the approval or disapproval with the Meeting.

2. Circuit Stewards are members of the Financial District Synod ; and have also a right to attend the Annual Meeting of the District Synod during the transaction of certain parts of its business (1869, vol. xvii. p. 624).

3. Any Station . . . in which the support of the Ministry depends on the Home Missionary Committee, the Station contributing only its Class and Ticket Money and Quarterly Collections, or else a specified sum, shall have a number, and ought to have one Circuit Steward (1878, p. 184).

4. The Superintendents of Circuits are required to furnish the Chairman of the District with the names and addresses of the Circuit Stewards immediately after the December Quarterly Meeting (1871, vol. xviii. p. 402).

Circuit Stewards and Trust Accounts.—*N.B.*—The Trust Accounts of Chapels settled on the Model Deed are to be audited, upon a day to be appointed by the Superintendent Minister, by the Superintendent, and the Circuit Steward or Circuit Stewards, if more than one, for the time being, of the Circuit in which the Chapel, or Place of Religious Worship, is situated, at a Meeting convened for that purpose ; fourteen days' notice of the Meeting to be given to the Circuit Steward or Circuit Stewards.

See *Chapel Model Deed*, pp. 578, 579.

Annual United Trustees' Meeting.—A United Meeting of the Treasurers and Trustees of the several Trust Estates shall be annually held in every Circuit on some day to be fixed at the December Quarterly Meeting, at which Trustees' Meeting an Abstract of the several Trustees' Accounts shall be examined, and entered in a Circuit Book, to be carefully kept by a

Secretary appointed for the purpose at the same Quarterly Meeting (1866, vol. xvi. p. 568).

For *Circuit Chapels Schedule*, see p. 317 (4).

Worn-out Ministers' Fund.—The Circuit Treasurers are requested to close their accounts with the Class Leaders not later than Christmas, and to present their statement to the Christmas Quarterly Meeting (1867, vol. xvii. p. 144). See p. 368.

Foreign Missions.—1. In every Circuit where separate Committees for the several Local Branches are not otherwise appointed, such separate Committees shall be annually appointed by the December Quarterly Meeting.

2. The accounts of every Branch shall be closed not later than 31st January in each year, and audited during the first week in February by Auditors to be appointed by the preceding December Quarterly Meeting; and from the accounts so audited the usual Schedule shall be prepared and immediately forwarded to the District Treasurer.

3. Each Branch Committee shall be responsible for securing the audit of its own accounts, and the Secretary of the Circuit Committee shall be responsible for filling up and forwarding the Circuit Schedule. Where no Circuit Committee exists, a Secretary shall be appointed for the purpose by the preceding December Quarterly Meeting (1888, p. 221).

4. In no Circuit shall the Missionary Accounts for the year be closed until they have been passed by the Local or Circuit Missionary Committee, and duly signed by the Superintendent (1898, p. 361).

For *Circuit Missionary Committee*, see pp. 190, 191.

Juvenile Associations.—N.B.—When one-third of the amount collected by Juvenile Associations is retained in the Circuit, to be expended in support of local movements of a *directly Home Missionary* character, the Conference has determined that the money so retained shall be expended “under the direction of the Superintendent and of a Committee appointed by the December Quarterly Meeting”; and that a Report be presented to the District Synod in May (1877, vol. xx. p. 398; 1885, p. 195).

See *Juvenile Home and Foreign Missionary Associations*, p. 187.

March.

Number of Church Members.—The number of Members in the Society Classes returned at the March Quarterly Meeting is forwarded through the Annual District Synod to the Conference (1831, vol. vii. p. 67).

Junior Society Classes.—"That Returns of the number of the young persons to whom such Tickets are given shall be made annually to the Circuit Quarterly Meeting in March, and through the District Synod to the Conference" (1878, p. 185).

Army and Navy Returns.—See p. 282 (7).

Invitation to Ministers.—To this Meeting belongs the invitation of Ministers to continue their labours in the Circuit, or of others to succeed them. The requests of the Quarterly Meeting as to invitations are conveyed by the Circuit Stewards to the Representative of the District, and by him to the Stationing Committee and the Conference.

Invitations to be given at the March Quarterly Meeting.—The Conference unanimously and earnestly recommends that the Quarterly Meetings, throughout the Connexion, should defer invitations to Ministers till the March Quarterly Meetings (1869, vol. xvii. p. 627).

Term of Appointment to the same Circuit.—The Conference shall not nor may nominate or appoint any person to the use and enjoyment of, or to preach and expound God's Holy Word in, any of the Chapels and Premises so given or conveyed, or which may be given or conveyed, upon the Trusts aforesaid, who is not either a Member of the Conference or admitted into connexion with the same, or upon Trial as aforesaid; nor appoint any person for more than three years successively to the use and enjoyment of any Chapel and Premises already given or to be given or conveyed upon the Trusts aforesaid, except ordained Ministers of the Church of England (*Deed of Declaration*, Clause xi.). See p. 468.

For *Exceptional Appointments, Reappointment of Ministers to Circuits, Appointment of Ministers to Circuits in the Same Town, Claims of Conference Towns, and Probationers who have been Supplies*, see pp. 116, 117.

Candidates for the Ministry.—The Superintendent of the Circuit *nominates* the Candidate, but the *approval* of the March Quarterly Meeting is essential.

1. Before any Superintendent proposes a Preacher to the Conference as proper to be received on Trial, such Preacher must be approved at the March Quarterly Meeting (1869, vol. xvii. p. 625).

2. Before anyone can be received, even upon Trial, among us, it is necessary that he should have been a Member of Society for some considerable time ; that he should have acted as a Local Preacher ; that he should be recommended by the Quarterly Meeting to the District Synod, and by that to the Conference (1797, vol. i. p. 677).

3. In any case in which a Candidate has not resided for two years continuously in the Circuit from which he is recommended, the Superintendent of that Circuit shall obtain a written Report concerning him from his former Superintendent or Superintendents, so as to cover the previous two years, and present the same to the March Quarterly Meeting, and the District Synod (1827, vol. vi. p. 280 ; 1895, p. 344).

For further Regulations relating to Candidates for the Ministry, see pp. 78-84.

For Regulations relating to Married Candidates, see pp. 85-87.

REPRESENTATIVES TO THE DISTRICT SYNODS.

In the election of Representatives to the District Synod, and in the election of Substitutes, no right of nomination belongs to the Superintendent.

1. The Circuit Stewards of each Circuit shall be called upon to declare their ability and willingness to attend the ensuing Annual Meeting of the District Synod in May, or the contrary. If they, or either of them, shall declare inability or unwillingness to attend the said District Synod, the Quarterly Meeting shall have the right of electing by and from its own Members, and by open vote, a Representative or Representatives to supply the vacancy or vacancies so created (*Minutes*, 1877, vol. xx. p. 421).

2. *Substitutes for Lay Members of Synods.*—The Circuit Quarterly Meeting in March shall be entitled to elect, provisionally, a Substitute for each of the Circuit Stewards, whether he shall, or shall not, have declared his ability and unwillingness to attend the Annual Synod in May ; also a Substitute for each of the Representatives, or for the Representative. Any Circuit Steward or Representative who shall find himself unable to attend the Synod, shall inform the Superintendent, who shall thereupon invite the Substitute to be present (1897, pp. 340, 341).

3. Circuit Stewards, who are otherwise Members of the District Synod, shall not be at liberty to decline to attend the District Synod as Stewards, and then claim the right to sit and vote by virtue of any other office (1892, p. 311).

4. In addition to the Circuit Stewards, who represent especially the financial interests of the Circuit, each Circuit shall, at the March Quarterly Meeting, elect as Members of the District Synod, either one or two Laymen who are considered suitable, on general grounds, to take part in the counsels of the District Synods in May and September.

5. Circuits employing one or two Ministers shall elect one Representative to the District Synod ; Circuits with three or more Ministers shall elect two Representatives (1892, p. 311).

N.B.—The Conference declares that no one is eligible for a seat in a District Synod, or upon any Committee thereof, who is not a Member of the Wesleyan Methodist Church (1892, p. 309).

6. The Conference resolves that, at the elections in Quarterly Meetings of the Representatives to the District Synods, the usage of open voting may be departed from, and the elections decided by ballot, after nomination by Lay Members of the Meeting (1893, p. 319).

Names to be sent to Chairman of District.—The Superintendents of Circuits are required to furnish the Chairman of the District . . . immediately after the March Quarterly Meeting, with the name and address of any gentleman elected to attend the May District Synod in the place of any Circuit Steward declaring his inability to attend such District Synod ; and also with the names and addresses of those persons, in addition to the Circuit Stewards, who have been elected as Representatives to the District Synods (1881, p. 302 ; 1892, p. 311).

For further Regulations in reference to Representatives and the Substitutes for Lay Members of Synods, see *Constitution of District Synods*, pp. 127–130.

Grants from the Home Mission Fund.—It is the duty of the Quarterly Meeting to meet the expenses of *Afflictions* which may fall upon the Ministers, or their families, appointed to the Circuit ; these being properly included among the ordinary Circuit liabilities. Before application is made to the District Synod and the Home Mission Committee for a grant towards such expenses, the claim must first be presented to the Quarterly Meeting, and that Meeting must be asked to meet it. Ministers designing to make any such application to the District Synod should bring the matter, at the latest, before the *March* Quarterly Meeting.

Grants for Afflictions and Funeral Expenses.—1. No Grant for Affliction shall be paid until the claim has first been presented to the Quarterly Meeting of the Circuit from which the application comes, and has been approved by the District Synod to which the Circuit belongs (1879, p. 229).

2. Self-supporting Circuits are urged to avoid, as far as possible, making applications to the Home Mission and Contingent Fund for Grants towards the Afflictions and the Funeral Expenses of their own Ministers (1880, p. 219).

Grants for Removals.—1. It is undesirable to continue to publish the names of Ministers receiving Grants for Removals, Afflictions, and Supplies.

2. As the names of Ministers receiving Grants are no longer to be published, it is obviously necessary that Grants for Removal Expenses, as well as for Afflictions, should in future be submitted to the Quarterly Meeting of the Circuit on which the amount will be charged, and should be approved by the District Synod to which that Circuit belongs (1875, vol. xix. p. 682).

3. A Grant towards the Removal Expenses of any Minister may be made by the Home Mission Committee, so soon as it has been certified by the District Home Mission Committee that the claim is reasonable, that it has been duly submitted to the Quarterly Meeting of the Circuit from which the removal has taken place, and that the Circuit is unable to meet the whole expense (1879, p. 229).

Removal Expenses of an Invited Minister.—If any Minister be appointed by the Conference to a Circuit after an invitation sent by that Circuit to the Minister, every expense incurred by his removal, beyond what the Circuit he is leaving may provide, shall be borne by his new Circuit (1879, pp. 228, 229).

Grants and Preachers on Trial.—A practice having grown up for Preachers on Trial to apply to the Home Mission and Contingent Fund for Grants for Afflictions, Supplies, etc., in the same manner as Ministers in Full Connexion, the Conference declares that for the future it be understood that Preachers on Trial have no claim on the Fund for any extraordinary expenses (1879, p. 229).

Additional or Fewer Ministers in the Circuit.—Requests for additional Ministers, or proposals to lessen the number of Ministers, are also to be considered at this Meeting. These requests, if adopted by the Quarterly Meeting, are submitted to the Annual District Synod; and if approved by the District Synod,

are then brought under the consideration of the Home Mission Committee, and if sanctioned by this Committee also, may be acted upon by the Conference in its Pastoral Session (1877, vol. xx. pp. 423 and 514).

Pledges to support Married instead of Single Ministers.—1. No additional single Preacher can be sent in future to any Circuit unless such Circuit engage to support *an additional married Preacher*, instead of a single Preacher, at the end of four years at the latest (1813, vol. iii. p. 386).

2. In order to possess an explicit record of pledges made to the Conference by Circuits applying for additional Ministers, and engaging to receive and support Married Ministers at the time specified, the Treasurers and Secretaries of the Home Mission and Contingent Fund are instructed to prepare a Form of Pledge, to be filled up and signed by the Circuit Stewards, countersigned by the Superintendent, and presented at the Conference, when the application is made, and these authenticated pledges shall be preserved with the other documents of the Conference (*Journal*, 1858 ; *Minutes*, 1877, vol. xx. p. 514).

3. Any Circuit making application for an additional Minister shall furnish a House not later than at the end of four years, and at the end of three years wherever practicable ; and the Superintendent and Circuit Stewards, acting by the direction of the Quarterly Meeting, shall sign a pledge to this effect, and satisfy the District Synod that there is a reasonable probability that such pledge will be duly redeemed. This pledge shall be in the keeping of the Financial Secretary of the Home Mission Fund, and a copy of it shall be inserted in the District Minutes (1879, pp. 229, 230).

Failure to Redeem Pledge.—Whenever a married Minister is appointed to a Circuit which has failed to fulfil its obligation to provide for a family, the additional amount paid to him shall be entered as a Grant to the Circuit ; and so long as the pledge remains unfulfilled, it shall be considered annually, first in the May District Synod, and then on the report of that Synod, by the Conference, whether the appointment should be longer continued (1879, p. 230).

For scale of Allowances paid by the Home Mission Committee to a married Minister in Full Connexion with the Conference for whom no House is provided, see *Minutes*, 1879, p. 230.

Grants towards the Furnishing of Additional Houses.—1. Where any Circuit shall propose to furnish a new House, a Grant of £40 shall be made in aid of that object, when a certificate shall have been furnished that such House is made in every way suitable to be the residence of a Minister (1856, vol. xiii. pp. 293, 372, 373).

2. Any Circuit providing a House at the end of four years, may receive a Grant of £40 towards furniture; if at the end of three years, it may receive £50; if at the end of two years, £60; if at the end of one year, £70; or, if a House be provided when the additional Minister is appointed, £80; but no Circuit shall receive more than £40 so long as any previous obligation to provide for a family remains unfulfilled (1879, p. 230).

3. As soon as practicable, the spheres of labour now occupied by Home Missionary Ministers shall be incorporated with the general work of Circuits; and in every case in which a married Minister shall be appointed to a Circuit in connexion with such an arrangement, the sum of £50 shall be granted by the Home Mission and Contingent Fund Committee, if requested by the Circuit, towards furnishing the additional Minister's House (1879, p. 235).

For Regulation relating to Loans from the Chapel Committee for the erection, or purchase, of Ministers' Houses, see 1884, pp. 232, 233.

Provision for Married Ministers.—See pp. 274, 275.

Division of Circuit or Alteration of Circuit Boundaries.—No "alteration, amalgamation, or division of any Circuit" shall be adopted by the Conference until the proposal has been submitted to the Quarterly Meeting of the Circuit (1886, pp. 270–273).

For Regulations relating to the Division of Circuits, see pp. 173–176.

Education Returns and Reports.

1. A General Report on the Religious Instruction given in the Day Schools, founded upon the Teachers' Reports from the several Schools, as well as upon the personal Visitation of the Ministers, shall be submitted to the March Quarterly Meetings, when the Returns as to the Day and Sunday Schools of the Circuit are presented (1889, p. 269). See pp. 247, 248.

2. With a view to securing more correct Returns from Sunday Schools, it is an instruction to the Secretary or Secretaries of each School, that, wherever practicable, the Schedule of Returns be submitted to the Local Committee before such Returns are presented to the Circuit Quarterly Meeting (1885, p. 278).

3. Previously to the District Synod, the Superintendent in each Circuit, or one of his colleagues appointed by him, shall make timely application to the School Secretaries of each place in the Circuit where a Sunday or Week Day School is established, for the information required for the filling up of the Schedules provided by the General Committee; and after filling them up and laying them

before the Quarterly Meeting, shall forward them as directed by the Conference (1873, vol. xix. p. 179).

4. The Statistics of the Day and Sunday Schools of each Circuit shall be read in the March Quarterly Meetings; but if sufficient time be not then available for the discussion of the Statistics, and for inquiry into the state of the Schools, such discussion and inquiry shall take place in the June Quarterly Meeting (1889, p. 269).

5. The Education Schedules, having been duly filled up and presented to the March Quarterly Meeting, shall be sent by the Superintendent to the District Education Secretary, not later than 20th April in each year (1889, p. 269). See p. 387.

Chapel Schedule.—The Chapel Schedule, duly filled up from the Circuit Book, shall be forwarded every year, not later than 20th April, by each Superintendent, to the Secretary of the District Chapel Committee (see 1866, vol. xvi. p. 568). For the *Annual United Trustees' Meeting*, see p. 317.

Temperance Schedule.—1. The Temperance Schedule must also be sent to the Secretary of the District Temperance Committee.

2. Superintendents are directed to send to the Secretary of the Connexional Conference Committee, not later than the end of September, the name and address of the Circuit Temperance Secretary (1895, p. 305). See p. 431.

Foreign Missions Accounts.—The Accounts of the several Local Branches of the Missionary Society, in each Circuit, duly audited by Auditors appointed by the preceding December Quarterly Meeting, shall be reported to the March Quarterly Meeting (see 1888, p. 221).

At the following September Quarterly Meeting, when the Missionary Committee is re-appointed, the same Report is again to be considered, in order that the Quarterly Meeting may make any suggestions or give any instructions that may be needful, whether as to approaching Anniversaries or otherwise.

Memorials to Conference.

N.B.—Notice of a Motion or Resolution intended as the basis of a Memorial to the Conference at the June Quarterly Meeting, with a copy in writing of such Motion or Resolution, may be given at the March Quarterly Meeting (1895, p. 367).

June.

The June Quarterly Meeting has its special business. If there is not sufficient time in March, as is frequently the case, for the consideration of the state of the Day and Sunday Schools, this subject is to be taken up in June.

Connexional Principle and Connexional Funds.—1. The Conference solemnly resolves to stand by the Connexional Principle, adopted by Mr. Wesley, and hitherto maintained by his successors, as being that in which—next to the blessing and grace of the Holy Spirit—the great strength of Wesleyan Methodism lies, for the conservation of its internal purity and order, and for the accomplishment of the great spiritual objects for which the Providence of God first brought it into existence, and has hitherto sustained it (1850, vol. xi. pp. 468, 469; 1851, vol. xi. p. 678).

2. The Circuit Quarterly Meeting affords a most valuable opportunity for bringing the Connexional Principle before the leading officials of our Circuits; and the Conference recommends that at each June Quarterly Meeting this should be done, and a Report made of the Circuit Contributions to each Connexional Fund during the year (1889, p. 288).

N.B.—This Report may be conveniently made from the duplicate copy of the President's Circular, retained by the Superintendent.

Metropolitan Chapel Building Fund.—In the London Districts “a Circuit Ministerial or Lay Secretary shall be appointed by the June Quarterly Meeting in each of the Metropolitan Circuits, with a view to secure more efficient organisation” (1872, vol. xviii. p. 628).

Memorials to Conference.—Memorials from Circuit Quarterly Meetings to the Conference are to proceed from the June Meetings. The following are the Regulations:—

1. Should a majority of the June Quarterly Meeting, in any Circuit, be of opinion that it is desirable to address to the Conference a Memorial on any Connexional subject, and agree to do so, that Meeting itself, subject to the Regulations which follow, shall have authority to adopt and transmit to the Conference such a Memorial. And at such Meeting any member thereof may propose, for consideration, the propriety of addressing a Memorial to the Conference (1852, vol. xii. p. 111).

2. Any Member of the Quarterly Meeting intending to propose a Resolution, and bring the same before the June Quarterly Meeting, as the basis of a Memorial to the Conference, shall give notice, with a copy in writing, of the particular Motion or Resolution which he intends to propose, either at the March Quarterly Meeting, or to the Superintendent Minister, not less than seven days preceding the date of the June Quarterly Meeting; and no proposal of which such notice has not been given shall be brought forward that year. But should the Quarterly Meeting adopt the substance or principle of a Resolution so brought forward, it may amend, as well as simply adopt or reject it (1852, vol. xii. p. 112; 1895, p. 367).

3. A Memorial, founded on such Motion or Resolution, if approved by a majority of the persons present, shall be signed by the Chairman of the Meeting; and he shall add a footnote, stating the number of persons present, and also the number voting for and against the Memorial (1891, pp. 331, 362).

4. The Conference directs that Memorials from Circuit Quarterly Meetings be forwarded by the Superintendents of Circuits to the Convener of the Committee on Memorials and Suggestions, not later than ten days before the opening of the Conference (1889, p. 285).

The Conference will, as heretofore, receive Memorials up to and including the second day of its Session (1852, vol. xii. p. 112).

5. All Memorials thus received by the Conference shall be referred to a Committee of its Members, who shall carefully examine, consider, and classify the whole, and present their Report thereon to the Conference (1852, vol. xii. p. 112).

6. The Quarterly Meeting has complete freedom to memorialise Conference. It is not competent for the Chairman of a June Quarterly Meeting to rule any Memorial out of order. The Conference reserves to itself alone the right to determine whether a Memorial contains a proposal of a revolutionary character, or subversive of the Doctrine or Discipline of Wesleyan Methodism (1852, vol. xii. p. 112; 1895, p. 368).

7. The Conference cannot sanction such Memorials as involve a direct interference on the part of one Circuit with the local affairs or proceedings of any other Circuit (1852, vol. xii. p. 112).

8. No Memorial can be received from the Quarterly Meeting of a Circuit except in manuscript (1874, vol. xix. p. 454).

9. The consideration and determination of all questions raised by Memorials from Circuit Quarterly Meetings shall come within the province of the Conference when exclusively Ministerial, or when the Lay Representatives shall be present, according to the subject-matter thereof respectively. In all cases in which there may be any doubt as to the province to which a matter belongs, the President shall decide (1877, vol. xx. p. 424).

SPECIAL CIRCUIT MEETING.

The Special Circuit Meeting was instituted by the Conference in 1852 to provide a Court of Appeal from the verdict of a Leaders' Meeting, instead of the Minor District Synod, in certain extraordinary proceedings. The jurisdiction of a Special Circuit Meeting is limited to cases arising in and dealt with by any Leaders' Meeting in the Circuit. If the Superintendent of a Circuit is convinced that a Leaders' Meeting has given a verdict in a factious spirit on a charge brought before it, and one "notoriously inconsistent with the facts proved, and with the plain and obvious meaning, and the general or specific regulations, of the laws of God, or of our own Body, as applicable to those facts,—or even, in certain conceivable cases, has refused to give any verdict at all,"—he is empowered to require a re-hearing of the case by a *Special Circuit Meeting*, to be appointed by the Quarterly Meeting. A similar right is given to a Member of the Society who has been found guilty of factious conduct by a Leaders' Meeting, to claim a re-hearing of the case by a Special Circuit Meeting.

The Rules of the Conference bearing on this subject are as follows:—

The Conference, after long and careful deliberation, agrees that, *instead* of such appeal by the *Superintendent* to a Minor District Synod, and *before* an appeal be made to the Pastorate of the District, a *second trial* shall take place within the Circuit. And, while objecting, on principle, to invest the Quarterly Meeting with the power of *final* decision in cases of Discipline, the Conference enacts—

1. When such a case as the preceding paragraph describes shall occur, the Superintendent shall be authorised to require a *re-hearing by a Special Circuit Meeting*, consisting of not more than twelve Lay Members of the Quarterly Meeting, to be chosen *for the occasion* by that Meeting, in such manner as it may deem proper.

2. At such Special Circuit Meeting the Chairman of the District shall preside; or, in case of unavoidable absence, shall appoint some other Minister of the District to preside in his place.

3. The Meeting thus constituted shall have full power to re-hear the case.

4. If, on such re-hearing, the accused party (whether a Leader, Local Preacher, Trustee, or other Local Officer, or Member of Society without any office) be found guilty by the verdict of the Special Circuit Meeting, the case shall then be left in the hands of the Pastorate; and the Superintendent be empowered, after advising with the Chairman and his own Colleagues, to remove the party so convicted from the Society, or to administer any other measure of discipline which may be deemed sufficient.

5. If the party so tried by the Special Circuit Meeting be dissatisfied with the *sentence* of the Superintendent, he shall have the right to appeal, first, to the Annual District Synod, and afterwards, if still dissatisfied, to the Conference.

6. The Leaders' Meeting and the Special Circuit Meeting for re-hearing are entitled to declare, by their *verdict*, whether the facts alleged are, or are not, proved to their satisfaction, and whether, in their opinion, those facts are violations "of the laws of God, or of our own Body." And the *verdict* of a Meeting for re-hearing is not to be reversed, unless a Special District Synod or the Conference interpose, and deem that justice requires such reversal.

7. In most instances it is highly probable that a verdict which, from any cause, may have been given by a Leaders' Meeting, "in contradiction to law and evidence," will, on a *re-hearing* of the case by a Special Circuit Meeting, appointed by the Quarterly Meeting, be corrected. But should the result unhappily show that the spirit of faction, or any other misleading influence, so extensively prevails in the Circuit as to prevent the ordinary administration of godly discipline, in such case it is to be understood that the Superintendent retains the right of appeal to the collective Pastorate of the District, and that the District Synod may then interpose by virtue of the powers with which it was originally invested in 1791, and which from that time it has exercised in great emergencies, and may adopt such measures (disciplinary or otherwise) as it may deem necessary to meet the "critical case" in question, and to maintain discipline and order in the disturbed Circuit "till the meeting of the next Conference, when the Chairman of the Synod shall lay the Minutes of its proceedings before the Conference" (see *Minutes*, 1791, vol. i. p. 249).

8. Should the Quarterly Meeting refuse to appoint a Special Meeting to re-hear the case, or should the persons appointed refuse to give any verdict, the Superintendent may at once appeal, in the usual form, to the District Synod.

9. Any Member or Local Officer of the Society who, by the verdict of a Leaders' Meeting, is found guilty of *factionous conduct*, may (as well as the Superintendent) claim a *re-hearing* by such Special Circuit Meeting, if he give notice of his wish to do so within the seven days which, according to Rule (*Minutes*, 1835, vol. vii. p. 581),

are to intervene before the sentence be pronounced. If such notice be given, the Superintendent shall be required to take the necessary steps for the appointment of a Special Circuit Meeting, and the sentence shall be postponed till after that Meeting shall have given its verdict. Should the Special Circuit Meeting confirm the previous verdict of the Leaders' Meeting, and a *sentence of expulsion* be consequently pronounced by the Superintendent (after consulting with the Chairman of the District and his own Colleagues), the excluded party may appeal against the *sentence* to the Annual District Synod, and if still dissatisfied, to the Conference.

10. Whether the party objecting to a verdict of a Leaders' Meeting be the Superintendent or the person accused, the application of the *provision for a re-hearing*, by a Special Circuit Meeting, is to be strictly limited to such cases of *factionous conduct* as "may possibly arise in seasons of peculiar excitement" (*Minutes*, 1835, vol. vii. p. 582), and as are described in the preamble of this section. And, further, the same provision, while modifying the *Superintendent's* privilege of calling for the interposition of the District Pastorate, in such cases as hereinbefore specified, is not to be understood as at all affecting the visitatorial power of the Chairman of the District, and the constitutional right of the District Synod to interpose its authority for the due maintenance of our Discipline in a disturbed Society or Circuit. On the contrary, such power and right remain entire, in full and undiminished force, notwithstanding anything contained in these Regulations.

N.B.—The Regulation by which the Conference, in 1835, gave to a Member or Local Officer the right of appeal, in *ordinary cases*, to a *Minor District Synod*, against a *sentence of expulsion* pronounced by the *Superintendent*, after the verdict of a *Leaders' Meeting*, remains unaltered by this provision for extraordinary cases (1852, vol. xii. pp. 112-114).

For *Minor District Synod*, see pp. 146-149.

OTHER FORMAL SOCIETY AND CIRCUIT MEETINGS.

1. As the Leaders' Meeting is the proper Meeting for the Society, and the Quarterly Meeting for the Circuit, we think that other formal Meetings in general would be contrary to the Methodist Economy, and very prejudicial in their consequences. But

2. In order to be as tender as possible, consistently with what we believe to be essential to the welfare of our Societies, we allow that other formal Meetings may be held, if they first receive the approbation of the Superintendent and the Leaders' or Quarterly Meeting; provided also, that the Superintendent, if he please, be present at every such Meeting (1797, vol. i. p. 392).

CHAPTER XI

CIRCUIT ADMINISTRATION : LEADERS' MEETINGS—SOCIETY AND POOR STEWARDS—PRAYER LEADERS' MEETINGS—TRACT SOCIETIES—MISSION BANDS.

LEADERS' MEETINGS.

IN the Economy of Wesleyan Methodism important functions are assigned to Leaders' Meetings connected with particular Societies comprehended in a Circuit. Class Leaders, who hold a most responsible position, were first appointed in the year 1742, and the institution of the Leaders' Meeting necessarily followed the formation of the Classes. In the Fundamental Rules of the Methodist Society, published by the Revs. John and Charles Wesley, provision is made for Leaders' Meetings; and these Rules show the primary design and the leading business which belong to them. Among the duties there assigned to Leaders, we find the following:—

To meet the Ministers and the Stewards of the Society once a week, in order

To inform the Minister of any that are sick, or of any that walk disorderly, and will not be reprov'd;

To pay to the Stewards what they have received of their several Classes in the week preceding; and

To show their account of what each person has contributed.

See p. 5.

In the practical administration of Methodism, the Leaders' Meeting of a Society forms a body which the Superintendent may properly and advantageously consult on various matters bearing on its welfare. In many Circuits, too, it is found to be

a convenient and profitable arrangement occasionally to devote a Leaders' Meeting exclusively to religious exercises and to conversation on some topics affecting the duties of Leaders, or the means of promoting the spiritual efficiency of the several Class Meetings. In connexion with this, it should be mentioned that it is a Rule of the Connexion, that when a new Leader is first introduced into the Leaders' Meeting, the Superintendent, or the Minister who presides, shall take the opportunity of stating the duties which belong to the office, and of enforcing them on all present.

CONSTITUTION OF LEADERS' MEETINGS.

The Superintendent of the Circuit in his capacity as Pastor presides at the Leaders' Meeting, or in his absence one of his Colleagues (1776, vol. i. p. 125; 1797, vol. i. p. 682; 1826, vol. vi. p. 168).

The Constitution of the Leaders' Meeting was formally defined by the Conference in 1874, and is as follows:—

1. The Ministers and Preachers on Trial who are appointed to the work of the Circuit.

2. The Leaders of the Society, the Society Stewards, the Stewards of the Poor Fund.

3. Circuit Stewards are *ex-officio* Members of the Leaders' Meeting of the Society to which they belong (1872, vol. xviii. p. 653).

4. When a Secretary is appointed in any Leaders' Meeting, such Secretary must be chosen from among the Members of that Meeting (1874, vol. xix. p. 454).

N.B.—(1) A Minister residing in a Circuit "without Pastoral Charge" shall not, as a Minister, be a Member of any Leaders' Meeting in the Circuit (1888, p. 215). See p. 119 (4).

(2) In consideration of the responsibility of the Governor of the College at Richmond for the Supply of the pulpit of the College Chapel, the Conference appoints him to be a Member of the Leaders' Meeting at that Chapel (1894, p. 226).

Attendance of Ministers at Official Meetings.—All the Ministers and Preachers on Trial appointed to a Circuit have a constitutional right to take part as Members in our Leaders'

Meetings, and in all other official Meetings of the Circuit to which they are appointed (1852, vol. xii. p. 121).

Jurisdiction.—The Leaders' Meeting, our first Court of Discipline, is, as its name indicates, mainly a meeting of "Leaders of Classes," and its jurisdiction extends as far as the Classes themselves extend. But the Leaders' Meeting represents and embodies in a peculiar way Pastoral care, because the Leaders may be described as Sub-Pastors, and are links between the Members and the Ministers. In a Leaders' Meeting, if it be rightly and regularly conducted, the Minister is made aware of the condition of the Church; the needs of the poor, the sick, the spiritually feeble, and the tempted are brought under his attention, and Pastoral oversight is thereby made in all cases easier, and in some cases possible where it would otherwise have been impossible (1889, p. 406).

Meetings to be Regularly Held.—Every Superintendent is required to take care that the Class Leaders of the town in which the Preachers reside, shall be uniformly met, according to our original Rule, once in every week, either by himself or by one of his Colleagues; and that the Class Leaders of the principal Societies in the country belonging to his Circuit shall usually be met at least once a fortnight (1826, vol. vi. p. 168).

Let our Superintendents require all our Leaders regularly to attend their respective Leaders' Meetings (1810, vol. iii. p. 156).

See *Resolutions on Pastoral Work—Leaders' Meetings* (1885, p. 360), and p. 532 of this work.

BUSINESS.

1. *To Inquire into the Spiritual Condition of the Classes.*—The primary design of the Leaders' Meeting is to bring the Leaders of a Society into intimate connexion with the Minister, and give to the latter the means of examining into the attendance of the Members at the Class Meeting, and of ascertaining what Members of the Society need his special pastoral attention. It is expected that the Leaders should bring their *Class Books* to the Leaders' Meeting; and that, after paying the contributions they have received to the Society Stewards, they should show their books to the Minister who presides, so as to give him an opportunity of noting any facts which they disclose

bearing on the state of the Society (1826, vol. vi. p. 168). The observance of this Rule is of great importance, and more particularly when the Minister on whom the special Pastoral care of the Society in question devolves presides at the Meeting.

Let the Preachers also attentively examine, at each Meeting, the entries made in the Class Books, in reference to the attendance of Members; in order that prompt and timely measures may be adopted in cases which, on inquiry, shall appear to demand the exercise of Discipline, or the interposition of Pastoral exhortation and admonition (1826, vol. vi. p. 168).

2. *Society Stewards to Receive the Class Money.*—The Society Stewards attend the Leaders' Meetings to receive from the Leaders the sums they have received in their several Classes. Superintendents are to urge on the Leaders the duty of collecting weekly in every Class, and of regularly paying to the Stewards the Subscriptions received for the support of the Gospel (1826, vol. vi. p. 168).

3. *Distribution of Money from the Poor Fund.*—At the Leaders' Meeting, too, the case of poor Members who need relief is considered; and sums are voted from the Poor Fund,—a Fund made up of the Collections at the Lord's Supper and the quarterly Lovefeast, supplemented in some cases by Public Collections,—according to their necessities and the resources of the Fund.

The Leader mentions the name of any deserving Member of his Class; the Meeting then decides on the merits of the case, and votes the amount to be given.

4. *Numbers in Society.*—The Conference directs that, where practicable, the numbers for each Society be read in the Leaders' Meeting immediately before each quarter-day (1893, p. 228).

5. *Pastoral Address.*—The Superintendents are directed, gratuitously, to furnish every Leader in their respective Circuits with a copy of the Pastoral Address of the Conference to the Societies (1821, vol. v. p. 254).

6. *The Lord's Supper.*—The Conference directs Superintendents to bring the subject of attendance at the Lord's Supper before the

Leaders' Meetings of the Circuit, in order, if possible, to secure a better observance of this Divine ordinance (1893, p. 228).

Superintendents are directed to arrange for the more frequent administration of the Lord's Supper (1896, p. 230).

APPOINTMENT OF CLASS LEADERS AND THEIR SPECIAL DUTIES.

1. No person shall, on any account, be permitted to retain any official situation in our Societies who holds opinions contrary to the total depravity of human nature, the Divinity and Atonement of Christ, the influence and witness of the Holy Spirit, and Christian holiness, as believed by the Methodists (1807, vol. ii. p. 405).

2. No person shall be appointed a Leader, or be removed from his office, but in conjunction with a Leaders' Meeting; the nomination to be with the Superintendent, and the approval or disapproval with the Leaders' Meeting (1869, vol. xvii. p. 624).

3. The Conference urges the necessity of appointing new Leaders, and especially young Leaders, of both sexes (1891, p. 329).

4. As much depends, under the blessing of God, on the piety, zeal, and devotion, the scriptural knowledge and Christian temper, of our Leaders, and also on their intelligent and hearty approval of the Doctrines and Discipline of Methodism, let us, before nominating a new Leader, satisfy ourselves, by previous inquiry and personal examination, as to the character and qualifications of the person proposed.

5. Whenever a new Leader, nominated by us and accepted by the Leaders' Meeting, is first introduced to the Meeting, let us take that opportunity of stating the duties which belong to the office. And in particular, let us urge upon our Leaders the vital importance of seeing or communicating with each of their Members once a week (1885, p. 361).

6. Let a strict inquiry be made by the Superintendent Preacher in the Leaders' Meeting, at least twice in the year, into the moral character of all the Leaders, their punctuality in beginning and ending their Class Meetings in proper time, and everything that relates to their office (1811, vol. iii. p. 222).

7. Let us affectionately, but firmly, enforce on the Leaders, as an essential article of our Pastoral Discipline, and one which, in consequence of our own constant itinerancy, cannot be dispensed with, the Rule of the Society in which it is stated to be the duty of a Leader "to see every Member in his Class *once in every week*" (1820, vol. v. p. 158).

8. We hope that our Class Leaders will endeavour to watch over the souls committed to their care, as those who are to give an account to the Great Shepherd. Their charge is of the highest importance; and if, in the spirit of prayer, they endeavour to lead forth their Members into all the salvation procured for them,

through the blood of the Redeemer, their labours will continue to be crowned with success. God surely will be with them, and bless them, if they are diligent and faithful in the work to which they have been appointed (*Pastoral Address*, 1822, vol. v. p. 345).

9. Let our Superintendents urge on the Leaders "the duty of collecting *weekly* in every Class . . . the subscriptions of our Members for the support of the Gospel (1826, vol. vi. p. 168).

Appointment of Junior Society Class Leaders.—The appointment of Leaders of Junior Society Classes requires the concurrence of the Leaders' Meeting, although these parties are not, as such, Members of that Meeting. In the Plan for the formation of these Classes we find the following Regulations:—

1. The proposed Classes shall bear the name of "Junior Society Classes"; but that the Leaders of such Classes shall not be thereby constituted Members of the Leaders' Meeting.

2. When these Classes are not in the hands of Ministers, they may be entrusted to other persons who have been approved by the Leaders' Meeting of the Society with which the Classes are connected, after nomination by the Superintendent Minister.

3. At the Meeting following the appointment, the person so appointed shall be present, and an address shall be given by the Minister, setting forth the nature and importance of the office (1878, p. 185; 1894, p. 218). See *Regulations relating to Junior Society Classes*, pp. 30, 31.

Appointment of Stewards.—1. No person shall be appointed a Society Steward, or Poor Steward, or be removed from his office, but in conjunction with a Leaders' Meeting; the nomination to be with the Superintendent, and the approval or disapproval with the Leaders' Meeting.

2. The office of a Steward ceases at the end of the year; and no Steward shall remain in office above three years in succession, except in some extraordinary case.¹

3. Circuit Stewards are to be appointed at a Quarterly Meeting, the nomination being with the Superintendent, and the approval or disapproval with the Meeting (1869, vol. xvii. p. 624.) See p. 29.

DISCIPLINARY POWERS.

To Prevent Improper Persons from entering the Society.—The Leaders' Meeting of a Society has a right to interpose to

¹ This Rule does not apply to Chapel Stewards, who are appointed by the Trustees. See *The Chapel Model Deed*, p. 577.

prevent improper persons, who may be on trial, from being admitted as Members. The Rule on this subject, adopted in 1797, is given in the Compendium of Regulations, and is as follows :—

The Leaders' Meeting has a right to declare any person on trial improper to be received into the Society ; and, after such declaration, the Superintendent shall not admit such person into Society.

This Rule is expounded by the Conference in the terms following :—“That it never was intended that the names of all those who are on trial should be laid before a Leaders' Meeting for distinct and formal discussion; but solely that if there be, in the opinion of a Leader, any reasonable objection to the character and conduct of any person who is on trial, such objection may be stated by him ; and that, if the validity of the objection be established to the satisfaction of the Meeting, a Member's Ticket shall not be given to the person so objected to at the Quarterly Visitation (1869, vol. xvii. pp. 620, 621).

Investigation of Charges.—Important functions belong to the Leaders' Meeting in connexion with the trial of accused Members of the Society. The Rules bearing on this subject have already been quoted in Part I. Chapter II. pp. 16–23. When a charge is brought against a Member of the Society, that charge must be heard by the Leaders' Meeting of the Society of which he is a Member ; and if the accused person is a Trustee, the Trustees of the Chapel with which that Society is connected must be associated with the Leaders' Meeting, such Trustees being themselves Members of the Society in the Circuit. If no Leaders' Meeting is statedly held in the place in question, the case is to be “referred for investigation to the Leaders' Meeting of the principal Society in the Circuit town” ; and “the Leader or Leaders, and the Society Stewards of the Society of which the accused is a Member, are to be associated with the Leaders' Meeting for the purpose of the investigation” (1872, vol. xviii. p. 656). It is further provided that “if the accused person is a Trustee, then there shall also be associated with the Leaders' Meeting, as above constituted, the Trustees of the Chapel with which the Society

of which he is a Member is connected; or, if there is no such Chapel, then the Trustees of the Chapel in connexion with the principal Society in the Circuit town. But no Trustee shall, in either case, be so associated unless he is himself a Member of Society in the same Circuit" (1869, vol. xvii. p. 625; 1872, vol. xviii. p. 656).

The Leaders' Meeting, constituted according to the above Rules, is entitled to declare, by its verdict, not only whether the facts alleged are proved, but also whether these facts do or do not involve violations of the laws of God or of our own Body. The sentence, in the event of a charge being established, rests with the Superintendent; but certain guards already stated are provided. See pp. 19-21.

Trial of Members who are Trustees.—For Regulations concerning, see p. 23.

Commercial Failures.—For Regulations concerning, see pp. 21, 22.

See *Admission and Exclusion of Members*, pp. 12-28.

Appeals.—Every expelled Member has a right of Appeal to a Minor District Synod, to the Annual District Synod, and to the Conference. No Appeal will be received by the Conference after the completion of the year following the Conference immediately succeeding the act of discipline, except by the special decision of the Conference (1869, vol. xvii. p. 621; 1891, p. 229). See *Appeals to District Synods and Conference*, pp. 148, 149; *Appeal to Special Circuit Meeting*, pp. 203-205.

MEMORIALS TO CONFERENCE.

The Leaders' Meeting of any Society has the right of memorialising the Conference on any matter specially affecting that particular Society. This right is distinctly recognised in the following Resolutions of the Conference:—

1. We cheerfully acknowledge the general right of our highly valued brethren, the Class Leaders, freely and fully to express their

views and wishes to the Conference in the way of Memorial, or otherwise, on subjects which seriously and manifestly involve the spiritual interests of the Classes placed under their care, or the religious prosperity of the Society to which they are severally attached.

2. We think, however, that the right thus recognised by us ought to be exercised *peaceably* and *prudently*; on such occasions *only* as seem to justify or require an extraordinary interference; with a cautious avoidance of those subjects of Memorial which do not immediately and directly affect that particular portion of our Society to which the Leaders concerned in such interference are individually attached; and, finally, with a careful abstinence from all such assumptions of *authority* as neither our Rules, nor the general principles of justice and of religious liberty, will sanction, in reference to the local Regulations and Uses of other Societies, Congregations, and Circuits (1828, vol. vi. p. 399). For *Memorials from Members*, see 1796, vol. i. p. 366).

Division of Circuit.

The Leaders' Meeting of any Society to which a proposed change, by alteration, amalgamation, or division in the Circuit of which it forms a part, refers . . . shall have the right of Appeal to the Conference in its Representative Session, when the Resolution of a District Synod with respect to the proposed change is brought before it (1886, p. 273).

See *Division of Circuits*, pp. 173-176.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

In the "Plan of Wesleyan Education," sanctioned in 1841, and slightly modified in the year 1873, certain powers are secured to the Leaders' Meeting of a Society in relation to Wesleyan Methodist Sunday Schools connected with that Society. It is provided, for instance, that of the Members of the Committee by which such Sunday School is managed, *additional* to the Ministers, the Treasurer, the General Secretary, and the Superintendents of the School, one-third, being Members of the Wesleyan Methodist Society, are to be chosen by the Leaders' Meeting. It is further provided that "no person shall be continued as an Officer or Teacher, who shall at any time be declared, by the Committee or the Leaders' Meeting, unfit, in respect of general character or of religious opinions, for the office he sustains, or for taking part

in the Christian education of the young" (1873, vol. xix. pp. 174, 176).

See *Rules for the Management of Wesleyan Methodist Sunday Schools*, 1868, vol. xvii. pp. 383-386 ; also p. 380.

ADULT BIBLE CLASSES AND PLEASANT SUNDAY AFTERNOONS FOR THE PEOPLE.

The Conference directs that the Superintendents of Circuits, in conjunction with the Leaders' Meetings and the Sunday School authorities, be directed to encourage the formation of such Classes in all cases when the Work of God may be promoted thereby ; but that in every case care be taken to secure the appointment of a suitable Conductor, who shall be a Member of Society, and be approved by the Leaders' Meeting. With respect to Classes which may be instituted in the future, the Conference directs that where they are not formed under the supervision of the Leaders' Meeting or Sunday School Committee, a Committee of Management be appointed, consisting of the Ministers of the Circuit with an agreed upon number of Laymen, half of whom shall be appointed by the Class, and the other half by the Sunday School Committee and Leaders' Meeting in equal proportions ; and that the appointment of the Conductor of the Class, who shall be a Member of Society and *ex officio* a Member of the Committee, shall be subject to the approval of the Leaders' Meeting. With respect to Classes already existing, the Conference recommends the adoption, as far as practicable, of the above plan" (1895, pp. 257, 258). See p. 383 (xxii.).

ARMY AND NAVY WORK.

At the October Leaders' Meeting of the Society connected with the Chapel in which the soldiers and seamen worship, the work in the Army and Navy shall be specially considered ; and the Meeting shall appoint one of its Members, or some other suitable person, to assist the Army Minister in visiting the barracks, and generally in seeking to attract our Methodist soldiers and seamen to the services of their own Church, and in winning them to Christ (1890, p. 257). See p. 282 (7).

COMBINED MEETING OF LEADERS WITH OTHER OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH.

The Conference having received certain Suggestions from District Synods, and Memorials from Circuits, on the subject of the enlargement of the Leaders' Meeting, by the admission thereto of Sunday

School Superintendents, Local Preachers, Chapel Stewards, and others, after full consideration in both the Pastoral and Representative Sessions, expressed its judgment in the following terms:—

1. The Conference regards the question of increasing the efficiency and importance of the Leaders' Meeting as one which, at the present time, demands the most serious attention of the Ministers in their Circuits as a practical question of administration.

2. But the Conference cannot adopt any such change as is proposed in the constitution of the Leaders' Meeting; but it strongly insists upon the necessity of so working the Leaders' Meeting as to make it in reality what it is intended to be, the Pastoral Council of the Society. In order to do this, the Conference urges the necessity of appointing new Leaders, and especially young Leaders, of both sexes, and also of holding the Leaders' Meetings as often as possible, for the purpose of close and systematic Pastoral oversight.

3. For the purpose of representing, when necessary, the general interests of the Society in regard to any special purpose or object that needs to be dealt with, combined Meetings of the Leaders' Meeting with the Trustees, the Sunday School Committee, or any other local Body connected with the Society, might be held occasionally. But to incorporate with the Leaders' Meeting, the Local Preachers, Sunday School Superintendents, Chapel Stewards, or other persons suggested by some of the Memorials, would, in the judgment of the Conference, be to transform the Leaders' Meeting into a miscellaneous gathering, to which the proper functions of the Leaders' Meeting, whether as a Pastoral Council or as the Court of Discipline, could no longer belong (1891, pp. 328-330).

DUTIES OF SOCIETY STEWARDS AND POOR STEWARDS.

Duties of Society Stewards.—The Society Stewards attend the Leaders' Meeting to examine the Class Books of the Leaders, and to receive the money contributed by the Members of the Society towards the support of the Ministry. It is expected of them to be present in the vestry before the commencement of Divine service, to advise with the Minister as to any pulpit notices that may be presented; to prepare notices for the arrangements announced on the Circuit Plan; to provide for the due celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism, when it is appointed to be administered; to see that the several Collections are made at the times specified on the Circuit Plan, and to take charge of them, afterwards paying over those made for the Connexional

Funds to the Superintendent of the Circuit; to provide suitable homes, when needed, for Preachers who officiate in their Chapel, and to see that their expenses, if any, are paid.

Duties of Poor Stewards.—The Poor Stewards of a Society receive the Collection made on behalf of the poor at the Lord's Supper and at the Lovefeasts. They provide, too, the bread and wine for the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, and the bread and water for the Lovefeasts. They attend the Leaders' Meeting to pay any sums that may be voted for the poor Members of the Society, handing the amount for distribution to the Leaders with whom such Members respectively meet.

PRAYER LEADERS' MEETINGS.

The Conference has strongly recommended the holding of Cottage Prayer Meetings. In the "Liverpool Minutes," among other advices to Ministers on Pastoral duties, is the following:—

"Let us encourage public Prayer Meetings, especially those which are held at times which do not interfere with our general worship, in the houses of our friends, in different parts of a town or neighbourhood; such Meetings having been long proved to be, when prudently conducted by persons of established piety and competent gifts, and duly superintended by the Preachers and by the Leaders' Meetings, valuable nurseries for our Congregations and Societies, and means of salvation to many who could not have been reached at first in any other method" (1820, vol. v. p. 148).

In many Societies there is a recognised body of Prayer Leaders, and a Plan of Cottage Prayer Meetings is prepared and published. In these cases the Superintendent, or one of his Colleagues, meets the Prayer Leaders every quarter, to encourage them in their work, and to inquire into their attention to their appointments, and into the attendance at the Prayer Meetings, and any spiritual good which may be known to have resulted from them. At these Meetings persons are proposed for the office of Prayer Leader; but before their names

can be placed upon the Plan, they must be approved by the Leaders' Meeting. The practicability and expediency of establishing additional Prayer Meetings are also considered.

TRACT SOCIETIES.

The Conference has not issued any particular plan for the formation and organisation of *Tract Societies*, but it has always encouraged them (see especially *Minutes*, 1821, vol. v. p. 250; 1822, vol. v. pp. 338, 343), and has evinced its solicitude to provide an adequate supply of suitable Tracts for their use. The London Book Committee is instructed, each year, to appoint some of its Members to be "The Methodist Tract Committee," the Secretary of which is a Minister appointed by the Conference; and this Committee issues, from time to time, a fresh supply of Tracts for distribution. It need scarcely be added, that the Tract Societies in a Circuit require, and will amply repay, the fostering care of the Ministers and the Leaders' Meetings.

Every Superintendent is recommended to form a Committee in his Circuit, who may co-operate with the General Committee in London for the purpose of disseminating Religious Tracts throughout the land (1811, vol. iii. p. 221).

MISSION BANDS.

1. The Conference is convinced that, in order that Methodism may be maintained both in town and country, the old voluntary evangelistic agencies must be revived and vigorously sustained, and that no provision of paid Lay Agency, however useful, and indeed necessary, can take its place.

2. The Conference directs that the necessary steps be taken to secure, as far as possible in every Circuit, the establishment of Mission and Exhorters' Bands, from among the Members of which the staff of Local Preachers may be recruited (1889, p. 233).

London Mission Band Union.—See pp. 296, 297.

CHAPTER XII

CIRCUIT ADMINISTRATION : LOCAL PREACHERS — LOCAL PREACHERS' MEETINGS — SPECIAL LOCAL PREACHERS' MEETINGS — ORDER AND FORM OF BUSINESS.

THE office of Local Preacher is one of great importance in the system of Methodism. Not only is it from this class of office-bearers that the ranks of the regular Ministry are recruited, but the labours of Local Preachers are of great value, and in many Circuits are indispensable to the supply of the pulpits in the towns and villages which they comprehend.

The General Regulations affecting Local Preachers are stated in the Compendium of Regulations adopted in the year 1864, to which additional Regulations have been subsequently added by the Conference. In recent years the legislation has been designed especially to secure a higher standard of attainment and efficiency on the part of Local Preachers. The Conference recommended in 1876, that "wherever it is practicable a Theological Class should be formed in each Circuit, for the purpose of assisting the Local Preachers in their Theological studies" (1876, vol. xx. p. 156).

District Local Preachers' Committee.—The important legislation officially adopted by the Conference in 1895 provides that a "District Local Preachers' Committee" be annually appointed at each September Synod, "to consist of the Chairman, the Financial Secretary, four other Ministers, and six Local Preachers; and if any Local Preachers be chosen who are not already Members of the Synod, they become such by this

appointment." Each Synod has also power to associate with the Members of the "District Local Preachers' Committee," other Ministers and Local Preachers interested in the subject, but the Laymen so added do not become Members of the Synod (1894, p. 315).

This Committee reports to the May Synod, and also, through the Connexional Local Preachers' Committee, to the Conference (1895, pp. 311, 312).

The Returns for the District Local Preachers' Committee shall be compiled at the March Local Preachers' Meeting, and signed by the Superintendent of the Circuit and the Secretary of the Local Preachers' Meeting (1898, p. 362).

Connexional Local Preachers' Committee.—A Local Preachers' Connexional Committee is annually appointed by the Conference, to devise and take the general oversight of methods for maintaining the supply and increasing the efficiency of the Local Preachers, so that the Circuit work, particularly in villages, may be successfully carried forward. This Connexional Committee is directed to furnish a List of Books for guiding the studies of Local Preachers, and also to prepare a Scheme of Voluntary Examinations. It is further authorised to put itself in communication with the Book-Room and other publishing houses, with a view to obtaining books for the Local Preachers on the most advantageous terms (1894, pp. 314, 315; 1895, p. 313).

LOCAL PREACHERS' MEETINGS.

Some time previous to the death of Wesley, the Superintendent Ministers had met the Local Preachers occasionally, more especially when the new Circuit Plans were about to be made; but from the great extent of many of the Circuits, this could not be a universal practice. It was not till the year 1796, five years after Wesley's death, that any formal recognition was made of Local Preachers' Meetings. Then it was enacted that, from that time, wherever it should be found practicable,

the Superintendent should meet the Local Preachers every quarter; and that, instead of its being left entirely to the Superintendent Minister to take on the Plan whomsoever he thought fit, none should thenceforward be admitted but those who were approved of at that Meeting, or at the Quarterly Meeting of the Circuit, where Local Preachers' Meetings could not be held.¹ "The Superintendent shall regularly meet the Local Preachers once a quarter" (1869, vol. xvii. p. 624).

Constitution.—The Superintendent in his capacity as Pastor presides at the Local Preachers' Meeting, or, in his absence, one of his Colleagues. The Local Preachers' Meeting consists of—

1. All the Ministers and Preachers on Trial appointed to a Circuit have a constitutional right to take part as Members in Local Preachers' Meetings (1852, vol. xii. p. 121; 1895, p. 435).

2. Supernumerary Ministers have the right to attend and take part in the Local Preachers' Meetings in the Circuits in which they reside (1895, p. 435).

3. The Local Preachers in the Circuit who have been fully admitted.

N.B.—Local Preachers on Trial are expected to attend the Local Preachers' Meeting, but are not entitled to vote (1895, p. 435).

Admission of Local Preachers.—At the Local Preachers' Meeting persons are proposed by the Superintendent, after personal and private examination, to be placed on Trial for the office of Local Preacher; and when the appointed period of Trial is about to close, arrangements are made for the hearing of each Candidate for the office by one of the Ministers, in conjunction with at least three of the Local Preachers. Before the admission of any person as a full and accredited Local Preacher, he has to undergo an Examination on Christian doctrine, as well as on his personal religious experience and his attachment to the Methodist Economy, in the presence of the Local Preachers' Meeting; and his admission to the office is by the vote of that Meeting. The Rule of the Conference is that "without the approval of the Local Preachers' Meeting, no

¹ See *Beecham's Constitution of Wesleyan Methodism*, pp. 11, 12.

person shall be recognised as a Local Preacher, or, as such, be allowed to preach among us" (1869, vol. xvii. p. 624).

For the Rules for conducting Local Preachers' Meetings, see *Order and Form of Business*, pp. 225-229.

Local Preachers from other Methodist Churches.—The Conference directs that before a Local Preacher from another branch of the Methodist Church is put on the Circuit Plan, he shall satisfy the Superintendent and the Local Preachers' Meeting that he holds our Doctrines, approves our Discipline, and has competent abilities for the work (1898, p. 250).

Local Preachers from Abroad.—See p. 154.

Women Preachers.—Q. Should women be permitted to preach among us? A. We are of opinion that, in general, they ought not—1. Because a vast majority of our people are opposed to it. 2. Because their preaching does not at all seem necessary, there being a sufficiency of Preachers, whom God has accredited, to supply all the places in our Connexion with regular preaching. But if any woman among us thinks she has an extraordinary call from God to speak in public (and we are sure it must be an *extraordinary* call that can authorise it), we are of opinion she should, in general, address her *own sex*, and *those only*. And upon this condition alone should any woman be permitted to preach in any part of our Connexion; and when so permitted, it should be under the following regulations: 1. They shall not preach in the Circuit where they reside, until they have obtained the approbation of the Superintendent and a Quarterly Meeting. 2. Before they go into any other Circuit to preach, they shall have a *written* invitation from the Superintendent of such Circuit, and a recommendatory note from the Superintendent of their own Circuit (1803, vol. ii. p. 187).

Exhorters.—The Regulations adopted by the Conference include a provision for the keeping up, in some Circuits, of a body of Exhorters, as distinct from Local Preachers, though subject to the approval of the Local Preachers' Meeting.

Such are the necessities of our work in some localities, that certain persons may be employed, as heretofore, in the capacity of *Exhorters*, such persons having the approbation of the Superintendent and of the Circuit and the Local Preachers' Meeting (1876, vol. xx. p. 155; 1895, p. 438). See p. 228.

Approval by Local Preachers' Meeting or Circuit Quarterly Meeting necessary.—The Superintendent shall regularly meet the Local Preachers once a quarter; and no person shall receive a Plan as a

Local Preacher, or be suffered to preach among us as such, without the approval of that Meeting. Or, if in any Circuit a regular Local Preachers' Meeting cannot be held, they shall be proposed and approved at the Quarterly Meeting of the Circuit, subject to the Regulations which apply to Local Preachers' Meetings in such matters (1869, vol. xvii. p. 624 ; 1895, p. 434).

Expelled Ministers, and Ministers who Resign while under Charges.—No Preacher excluded for immorality, or who resigns his connexion with the Conference while under charges which affect his moral character, shall at any subsequent period be allowed to be a Local Preacher, Class Leader, or even a private Member of Society, without the consent of the Conference previously obtained (1817, vol. iv. p. 344 ; 1897, p. 243 ; 1898, p. 250).

General Regulations.

The Circuit Plan.—1. Let no Local Preacher be permitted to preach . . . who is not regularly planned by the Superintendent of the Circuit where he resides (1796, vol. i. p. 361).

2. The Circuit Plan for the Travelling and Local Preachers shall be made by the Superintendent or his Colleagues (1811, vol. iii. p. 221 ; 1895, p. 435).

Preaching in other Circuits.—Let no Preacher be permitted to preach in any other Circuit than his own, without consent of the Superintendent of that Circuit (1869, vol. xvii. p. 624). See p. 523.

Sacraments.—The Conference directs that no person be permitted to administer the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper but a Travelling Preacher in Full Connexion (1811, vol. iii. p. 221). See p. 108.

Circuit Quarterly Meeting.—Every fully accredited Local Preacher is a Member of the Quarterly Meeting of the Circuit in which he resides. See 1895, p. 315 ; also p. 177.

Jurisdiction of Local Preachers' Meeting.—At this Meeting the name of every Local Preacher is called over ; and inquiry is made, whether there is any objection to him, affecting his moral and religious character, his belief and preaching of our Doctrines, his observance of our Discipline, and especially his attention to his appointments, and his ability for the work. "Local Preachers are responsible to their own Meeting for every part of their official conduct ; but for all acts affecting their character and standing as Members of the Society, they are

subject to the jurisdiction of the Leaders' Meetings to which they respectively belong."¹ Hence, if a charge is preferred against a Local Preacher affecting his moral character, it must be dealt with, not in the Local Preachers' Meeting, but in the Leaders' Meeting of the Society to which he belongs, according to the Rules which apply to the case of private Members.

The Local Preachers' Meeting has authority to make the inquiry :

Is there any objection to any Local Preacher or Exhorter whose name is on the Circuit Plan, such as affects his standing on the Plan? It may censure a Local Preacher, silence him, or remove his name from the Plan (1895, p. 435).

Any action, however, which may be taken by the Local Preachers' Meeting cannot interfere with the jurisdiction of the Leaders' Meeting, which alone can decide questions affecting Church Membership (1895, pp. 315, 435).

Commercial Failures.—The Conference resolves that a Local Preacher who shall be adjudged a bankrupt, or who shall make a composition with the general body of his creditors, shall thereby be suspended from his office as a Local Preacher, until the Local Preachers' Meeting shall have decided whether the circumstances of the case are such as to justify his continuance on the Plan (1895, p. 314).

SPECIAL LOCAL PREACHERS' MEETING.

The Conference *provisionally* resolves that the second and third paragraphs under Question I. of the Order and Form of Business of Local Preachers' Meetings (*Minutes*, 1896, p. 458) shall be amended so as to read as follows:—

The Meeting has authority to make these inquiries. Should an objection affecting his standing on the Plan be formally made against a Local Preacher, the Meeting may proceed to consider it; and if, in its judgment, the objection is sustained, the Superintendent shall determine and pronounce the sentence; subject, however, to the right of appeal against the sentence on the part either of the person accused, or of the Local Preachers' Meeting, to the District Synod and the Conference.

A Local Preacher who has been aggrieved in any matter affecting

¹ *Grindrod's Compendium*, p. 152.

his standing as a Local Preacher by a Superintendent acting in conjunction with an ordinary Local Preachers' Meeting, shall have a right of appeal to a Local Preachers' Meeting specially convened to reconsider the case ; and the finding of that Meeting as to matters of fact shall be final. The right to determine the sentence in this, as in all other judicial cases of discipline, is within the exclusive province of the Superintendent, after consultation with his Colleagues. And against this sentence all parties shall have a right of appeal to the District Synod and the Conference. Any action, however, which may be taken by the Local Preachers' Meeting cannot interfere with the jurisdiction of the Leaders' Meeting, which is the Court charged with the consideration of questions which affect Church Membership (1898, pp. 250, 251).

ORDER AND FORM OF BUSINESS IN LOCAL PREACHERS' MEETINGS.

The Conference has adopted the following Order and Form for conducting the Business in Local Preachers' Meetings (1895, p. 315 ; pp. 435-440):—

The Minutes of the previous Meeting shall be read ; and when approved as a correct record, shall be signed by the Chairman.

QUESTIONS.

I. *Is there any Objection to any Local Preacher, Preacher on Trial, or Exhorter, whose name is on the Circuit Plan, such as affects his standing on the Plan ?*

The names of the Local Preachers shall be called over one by one.

The Meeting has authority to make these inquiries ; and it may censure a Local Preacher, silence him, or remove his name from the Plan.

Any Brother who has been aggrieved in any matter affecting his standing as a Local Preacher by the action of an ordinary Local Preachers' Meeting, shall have the right of appeal to a Local Preachers' Meeting specially convened to reconsider the case, and the decision of that Meeting shall be final. Any action, however, which may be taken by the Local Preachers' Meeting cannot interfere with the jurisdiction of the Leaders' Meeting, which alone can decide questions affecting Church Membership.

[The second and third paragraphs under Question I. have been amended by a Resolution of the Conference, *provisionally* adopted by the Conference of 1898 (p. 458). See pp. 223, 224.]

In this general Question the following four particulars are included:—

1. *Is there any Objection to his moral and religious character?*
2. *Is there any Objection on the ground that he does not believe and preach our Doctrines?*
3. *Is there any Objection on the ground that he does not duly observe our Discipline?*

All Local Preachers shall meet in Class. (See *Minutes*, 1796, vol. i. p. 361; and *Minutes*, 1869, vol. xvii. p. 624).

Local Preachers shall consider themselves under special obligation regularly to partake of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

Every Local Preacher is bound to fulfil the appointments given to him. If, at any time, he should be unable to do so, he himself shall provide a duly accredited Substitute.

When, through sudden illness, a Local Preacher cannot either take his appointment or find a Supply, he shall communicate at once with the Superintendent.

4. *Has he competent abilities for our work?*

This question includes efficiency and general acceptance, as well as physical competence.

- II. *Has any Brother died during the Quarter?*

- III. *Has any Brother resigned his position as a Local Preacher?*

- IV. *Has any Brother whose name is on the Plan removed into another Circuit? If so, to what Circuit has he been accredited?*

- V. *Has any duly accredited Local Preacher come to reside in this Circuit?*

Every duly accredited Local Preacher is entitled to be placed, without renewed Trial or Examination, upon the Plan of any Circuit to which he may remove; provided he present his Note of Removal and current Circuit Plan, and has become a Member of Society in that Circuit. This, of course, does not apply to Local Preachers on Trial.

The position of a Local Preacher on the Plan of the Circuit to which he may remove shall be decided by the Local Preachers' Meeting concerned.

- VI. *Is anyone now on Trial to be fully received as a Local Preacher?*

Before any Candidate is fully admitted as a Local Preacher, he

shall have been twelve months on probation. (See *Minutes*, 1876, vol. xx. p. 156.)

The Local Preachers' Meeting shall have power to extend the period of probation, if such a measure be deemed desirable.

No Candidate shall be fully admitted as a Local Preacher until he has read the Fifty-three Standard Sermons of Mr. Wesley, and his Notes on the New Testament, and until he has passed a satisfactory Examination in the definitions and Scripture proofs of the leading doctrines of Christianity as there explained. (See *Minutes*, 1876, vol. xx. p. 155.)

Before the Candidate is examined, he shall give an account of his conversion to God, his present Christian experience, and his call to preach.

In receiving a person as a fully accredited Local Preacher, or on Trial, it is, in all cases, the sole right and duty of the Superintendent to nominate the Candidate; and the approval or rejection rests with the Meeting.

It is recommended that, wherever practicable, Local Preachers, after being received on Full Plan, shall be recognised at a Public Religious Service.

Every fully accredited Local Preacher shall be a Member of the Circuit Quarterly Meeting.

VII. *Who are continued on Trial?*

The names of the Brethren on probation shall be entered in the Minutes of the Meeting, with the number of Quarters that each has been on Trial.

It is desirable that, during his first, second, and third Quarter on Trial, every Brother shall be heard by one or more Local Preachers appointed by the Meeting, who shall report as to the Candidate's gifts and preaching ability.

When a Brother has been on Trial three Quarters, arrangements shall be made for his preaching a Trial Sermon in the presence of at least three Local Preachers, who shall submit to the next Meeting a written Report of the Sermon.

The Superintendent or one of his Colleagues shall also hear the Candidate preach, on that or on some other occasion, before his final Examination.

VIII. *Who are received on Trial?*

Before any Candidate comes upon the Plan on Trial, he shall be examined by the Superintendent, or under his direction, in the Summary of Christian Doctrine and Bible History, and (when necessary) in the Elements of English Grammar. (See *Minutes*, 1874, vol. xix. p. 455.)

IX. *Does this Meeting recommend that any Brother receive from the Superintendent a Note, authorising him to preach, or exhort? And what is the Report concerning those Brethren, if any, who have been preaching on Note during the past Quarter?*

It is not competent to any Local Preacher to send, or take with him, anyone to preach or exhort, without the sanction of the Superintendent.

Before giving a Note, the Superintendent shall converse with the Brother privately, in relation to his conversion, his present religious experience, and his knowledge and belief of our Doctrines.

If the Superintendent regards the result of this conversation as satisfactory, he shall give the Brother a Note, authorising him to preach or exhort within the limits of his own Circuit, and in the presence always of an accredited Local Preacher.

He shall preach in the presence of, at least, two Local Preachers during the Quarter—not necessarily of two on the same occasion—who shall report to the Meeting with a view to his being received on Trial.

The Note shall be valid for one Quarter only ; but, when necessary, it may be renewed.

Superintendents should give special attention to eligible and promising young men with a view to their becoming Local Preachers, and should direct their reading and studies to that end. (See *Minutes*, 1874, vol. xix. p. 455.)

X. *Does this Meeting recommend that the names of any Brethren be placed on the Plan as Exhorters?*

The necessities of our work require that suitable persons should be employed in the capacity of *Exhorters*, such persons having the approbation of the Superintendent of the Circuit and the Local Preachers' Meeting. (See *Minutes*, 1876, vol. xx. p. 155.)

XI. *Does this Meeting recommend any change in the hours of Service on the Lord's Day?*

XII. *Does this Meeting recommend that any New Place be put on the Plan?*

In every Circuit, let us try to open new places ; let us try again places which have not been recently visited ; . . . let us not be satisfied till every town, village, and hamlet in our respective neighbourhoods shall be blessed, as far as we can possibly accomplish it, with the means of grace and salvation. (See *Minutes*, 1820, vol. v. pp. 147, 148.)

XIII. *Does this Meeting recommend that any Place now on the Plan be given up?*

Let no place be lightly given up. But in order to revive and increase small and decaying congregations, especially in villages, let us have recourse to the practice of preaching out of doors ; going to those who need us most ; and seeking by all means to gather into the house of God them that are lost. (See *Minutes*, 1820, vol. v. p. 147.)

Before any place is taken off the Plan, it is necessary to obtain the sanction of the Circuit Quarterly Meeting.

GENERAL.

I. *What is the state of the Work of God in this Circuit so far as the work of the Local Preachers has relation thereto ?*

II. *How can we so prepare ourselves, that, more than hitherto, "our Gospel" shall come unto the people, "not in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost" ?*

III. *Can anything be done to improve our preaching, and render it more successful ?*

The Conference recommends that, wherever it is practicable, a Class shall be formed in each Circuit for the purpose of assisting the Local Preachers in their Theological Studies. (See *Minutes*, 1876, vol. xx. p. 156.)

SPECIAL.

March.

What is the Number of accredited Local Preachers in this Circuit, to be returned, through the District Synod, to the Conference ? (See *Minutes*, 1883, p. 182.)

What arrangements can be made for holding Open-air Services during the summer months ?

September.

I. The Superintendent shall give to each Local Preacher a copy of the "Annual Address of the Conference to the Wesleyan Methodist Societies."

II. A Secretary for the next year shall be elected.

December.

I. The Report of the Treasurer of any Fund held at the disposal of the Local Preachers' Meeting shall be presented.

II. Suggestions relating to Watch-night Services and Covenant Services may be considered.

CHAPTER XIII

CIRCUIT ADMINISTRATION: TRUSTEES—TRUSTEES' MEETINGS— TRUSTEES OF DAY SCHOOLS.

TRUSTEES are those persons to whom Chapels or other Connexional Property is conveyed in trust, according to the provisions of the Deeds by which they are held. The Deeds on which Wesleyan Methodist Trust Property is held are various; but most of the Chapels of the Connexion are now settled on the Trusts of the Chapel Model Deed.

Chapel Model Deed.—The introduction to the Chapel Model Deed contains an instructive account of the necessity which existed for a more efficient mode for the settlement of the numerous Chapels in the Connexion, and of the steps which were taken to obviate, for the future, the inconvenience, expense, and insecurity to which Trustees of Chapels, and the Connexion at large, had in many instances been exposed. The Conference of 1829 appointed a Committee to inquire into the eligibility of such a plan, with power to take such measures as might facilitate its execution. The Committee directed a case to be prepared, which was submitted to eminent Counsel, and all the opinions being favourable, the Draft of a Deed was prepared which might serve as a model to be referred to by subsequent Deeds. The Conference of 1830 unanimously approved the plan, and the Committee was reappointed, with power to complete and carry it into execution. After two years, the Conference of 1832 unanimously confirmed the proceedings of the Committee, and resolved that “the general

adoption of the plan be strongly recommended to the Connexion at large." As all Chapels settled on these Trusts are by reference to the Chapel Model Deed, this Deed is printed as Appendix V. See pp. 554-593.

TRUSTEES' MEETINGS.

The Deeds on which Wesleyan Methodist Trust Property is held are various; but as, in accordance with the decision of the Conference, most of the Chapels of the Connexion are settled on the Trusts of the Chapel Model Deed, the following Trustees' Meetings refer especially to Meetings held under the provisions of these Trusts. See *Chapel Model Deed*, pp. 554-593.

Trustees' Meetings, as the name implies, are Meetings of the Trustees of Chapels or other property conveyed to them in trust, according to the provisions of the Deeds by which they are held. They are summoned more or less frequently, according to circumstances; but there is a regular Annual Meeting of the Trustees of all Methodist Trust Property, at which the accounts for the year are presented, and the Officers of the Trust, as the Treasurer, the Secretary, and the Stewards, are appointed or re-appointed. Meetings of Trustees are distinguished from the official meetings of a Circuit in one important particular,—that only the Superintendent of the Circuit has the right to be present and to vote. The other Ministers are often invited to attend, and, as a matter of courtesy and convenience, are allowed to take part in the transaction of the business; but they have no legal right to do so, or to vote on any disputed question. Whenever a Chapel, with its Society and Congregation, is placed under the special Pastoral care of a Minister of the Circuit who is not the Superintendent, it is manifestly desirable, and in many cases important, that he should be present at the Meetings of the Trustees of that Chapel, as well as the Superintendent of the Circuit, though

he is not properly a Member of the Trustees' Meeting. Should the Superintendent be unable to attend, he can, according to the provisions of the Chapel Model Deed, depute one of his Colleagues to take his place, who then enjoys all the powers and privileges which legally belong to the Superintendent.

Management of Trust Property.—See *Chapel Affairs*, pp. 317, 318.

Chairman.—It is provided that “the Superintendent Preacher for the time being of the Circuit in which the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship shall for the time being be situated, or his Deputy thereunto from time to time by him nominated and appointed in writing under his hand, shall be the *Chairman* of, and shall preside at, and shall have a vote as such Superintendent Preacher or Deputy in, all Meetings held under or by virtue of these presents; but in case the said Superintendent Preacher for the time being, or his Deputy to be so appointed as aforesaid, shall at any time neglect to attend at any such Meeting as aforesaid, or if the said Superintendent Preacher or his Deputy appointed as aforesaid shall attend, but shall refuse to act as the Chairman at any such Meeting as aforesaid, or if the said Superintendent Preacher shall not attend at any such Meeting, and shall neglect to appoint a Deputy as aforesaid, then, and in every and any of the said cases, it shall be lawful for the persons for the time being composing such Meeting, and entitled to vote thereat, or for a majority of them, to elect and choose from among themselves a Chairman to preside for the time being at any such Meeting as aforesaid, and every Meeting so held, upon any such neglect or refusal of the said Superintendent Preacher or his Deputy as aforesaid, shall be as valid and effectual as if the said Superintendent or his Deputy as aforesaid had been the Chairman thereof, and had presided thereat” (*Chapel Model Deed*, pp. 582, 583).

Another provision is, “that every question or matter affecting the Trust Estate, considered at a Trustees' Meeting, is to be

decided by the votes of the majority of the persons present and entitled to vote"; and "in case there should be an equality of votes, then the Chairman of the Meeting shall give the casting vote, and which casting vote he shall have in addition to the vote which he is entitled to, in his character of Trustee, Superintendent Preacher, or otherwise" (*Chapel Model Deed*, p. 581).

The Annual Meeting.—The Annual Meeting is held for auditing the accounts. "Suitable Cash and Minute Books shall be provided by the Trustees of each Chapel." The inspection of the Books and the audit of the accounts are determined by the provision of the Model Deed relating to these matters. (See p. 579.) The duty is devolved by the Chapel Model Deed on the Superintendent of the Circuit, and the Circuit Stewards of the Circuit, or deputies whom they may respectively appoint in writing. "Fourteen days'" notice in writing, specifying the time, place, and purpose of such Meeting, shall and may be given under the direction of the said Superintendent for the time being, by any one or more of them, the said Trustees and Trustee for the time being, to each and every the other and others of them the said Trustees and Trustee, Circuit Stewards and Circuit Steward for the time being, and either personally served upon him and them respectively, or left for, or sent by the post to, him and them at his and their most usual place and places of abode or business. "Minutes of Trustees' Meetings shall be taken and preserved" (1866, vol. xvi. p. 568. *Chapel Model Deed*, p. 580).

Chapel Stewards and Treasurer.—These Officers of the Trustees are usually appointed at the Annual Meeting called for the auditing of the accounts. The Superintendent Minister has not any right of nomination as he has in the appointment of Circuit Stewards, Society Stewards, and Poor Stewards. Persons may be appointed by the Trustees to these offices although they are not themselves Trustees. The words of the Deed are very explicit:—

It is hereby declared, that it shall be lawful for the Trustees for the time being of these presents, or the major part of them, at any Meeting to be convened and held as is hereinafter mentioned, from time to time, and at all times hereafter, at their discretion, to appoint any person, or persons, of decent and sober conduct and good reputation, to be a Steward or Stewards, of the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship, and at their will and pleasure, to remove and to dismiss such Steward, or Stewards, or any of them; and the duty of the Steward, and Stewards, of the said Chapel or place of religious worship, shall be, to see and attend to the orderly conducting of the secular business and affairs of the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship, under the direction and superintendence of the Trustees for the time being of these presents, or the major part of them; and also in like manner to appoint any proper person, or persons, to be a Treasurer, or Treasurers, of the funds of the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship and premises, and at their will and pleasure to remove and to dismiss such Treasurer or Treasurers, or any of them (*Chapel Model Deed*, p. 577).

Appointment of New Trustees.—With regard to the appointment of new Trustees, it is provided that, when the number of Trustees is reduced to *five*, by death, incapacity, or refusal to act, then, at a *Special Meeting* of the Trustees, the Superintendent of the Circuit shall “nominate as many persons, being Members of the said Society of the People called Methodists, in the Circuit in which the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship shall for the time being be situate (if a sufficient number of such persons can be there found willing to take upon themselves the burden and due execution of the trusts hereby declared, and if not, then being Members of the said Society in that and some neighbouring or other Circuit or Circuits), as the said Superintendent for the time being shall deem to be suitable persons, being not fewer than twice the number of Trustees then to be chosen, elected, and appointed (unless the old continuing Trustees shall be satisfied with his nominating a less number), and the old Trustees for the time being, or the major part of them, present at such Meeting, shall thereupon choose, elect, and appoint, from amongst the said persons nominated as aforesaid, so many persons to be Trustees of the said piece of ground, Chapel, or place of Religious

Worship, and premises, as shall, together with such of the old Trustees as shall continue in the trusts of these presents, make up in the whole the original number of Trustees; or, if none of the old Trustees shall continue in the trusts of these presents, then shall choose, elect, and appoint so many of the persons nominated as aforesaid, as shall be equal to the original number of Trustees" (*Chapel Model Deed*, p. 590).

The Chapel Model Deed further contains a provision giving the power of appointment of new Trustees, although the number should *not* be reduced to five; and also, in case the number should, through accident, neglect, or otherwise, be reduced *below* that number. Power is also reserved to the Trustees to *increase* the number originally appointed, but with the restriction that the whole number shall not exceed *thirty*.

These are the chief provisions of the Chapel Model Deed which require to be kept in view in the Circuit administration of Methodism. But the entire Deed is well deserving of careful study, and is printed *in extenso* in Appendix, pp. 554-593.

Trustees' Appointment Acts.—See *Chapel Affairs*, p. 317.

Ordinary Meetings.—The Ordinary Meetings of the Trustees are for the transaction of the ordinary business of the Trust Estate, and may be held as "soon as the same can be conveniently convened, by notice in writing, specifying the time and place of such Meeting, given and signed by at least either two of the Trustees or by the Superintendent."

Special Meetings.—These Meetings are convened "for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety of making any alteration of, or any addition to, or Mortgage or sale of, the said Chapel, or place of Religious Worship, and premises, or any part or parts thereof, or for contracting any debt, upon, for, or on account thereof (other than for the ordinary current expenses thereof), or for letting any such house or houses, school-room or school-rooms, as aforesaid, or for fixing the rents or prices, or making or altering rules to ascertain the rents or prices, of such graves, tombs, pews, and seats as aforesaid, or

for appropriating the funds or any part of the funds of the said Chapel, or place of Religious Worship (otherwise than for the due payment of the ordinary current expenses thereof), or for bringing or defending any action or actions, suit or suits, respecting the said Trust Estates and premises, or any parts thereof, or any matter relating thereto, or for any one or more of the above purposes, shall be, and shall be deemed and taken to be, a *Special Meeting*; and of every such Meeting fourteen days' notice in writing, specifying the time, place, and purpose or purposes of such Meeting, and signed by at least either two of the Trustees for the time being of these presents, or by the Superintendent Preacher for the time being, shall be given to the other, and others, of them and him, the said Trustees, and Superintendent Preacher (unless where he himself is the person giving such notice), and either personally served upon him and them, or left for, or sent by the post to, him and them, respectively, at his and their most usual place and places of abode or business" (*Chapel Model Deed*, pp. 579, 580).

Trustees Withdrawing or Excluded.—Trustees *withdrawing*, or *excluded*, from the Methodist Society do not, by that fact, cease to be Trustees; but when they have continued out of the Methodist Society for six months, they may, *upon the request in writing* of the other Trustees, or a majority of them, *but not otherwise*, and on receiving a bond of indemnity from them, be called upon to relinquish the trust, and to convey and assure the property to the other Trustees, or new Trustees properly appointed. See *Chapel Model Deed*, p. 587.

Annual United Meeting.—In every Circuit there is an *Annual United Meeting* of the Trustees of the several Chapels and other Trust Estates comprehended in the Circuit, the time of which is to be fixed at the December Quarterly Meeting. At this Meeting "an abstract of the several Treasurers' accounts shall be examined, and entered in a Circuit Book, to be carefully kept by a Secretary appointed for the purpose at the December Quarterly Meeting;" and a "Schedule, duly filled up from

this Circuit Book, shall be forwarded, every year, not later than the 20th of April, by the Superintendent, to the Secretary of the District Chapel Sub-Committee" (1866, vol. xvi. p. 568). "Attention should be paid to the timely renewal of Trusts, and the careful filling up of the column provided in the Circuit Schedule for the purpose of showing what is the *minimum* number of Trustees, when the Trust should be renewed" (1860, vol. xiv. p. 551). This United Trustees' Meeting may offer *suggestions* to the Trustees of any particular Trust Estate; but it has no power to interfere in the administration of any Trust Estate.

Use of Wesleyan Methodist Trust Property for purposes not contemplated in the Trust Deeds.—See *Chapel Affairs*, pp. 318, 319.

Relation of Provisions of Trust Deeds to the Rules and Usages of Methodism.

The Vice-Chancellor, Sir Lancelot Shadwell, in his Judgment in Dr. Warren's Chancery Suit, commented upon the relation of the Trusts of a Chapel Deed to the Rules and Usages of Methodism.¹

¹ "It is to be observed that the Deeds of Trust are not, according to my humble apprehension, to be construed merely with regard to the words that may happen to be contained in the Deeds themselves, but must be construed and looked at as part and parcel of the whole machinery by which the great Body of Wesleyan Methodists . . . is kept together, and by which Methodism itself is carried on. I think that I should take a very narrow view of the case if I contented myself with merely looking at the words of the Trust Deed, and not going further, and considering whether, from the very nature of the transaction and matters connected with it, some circumstances extrinsic of the Deed must not be taken into consideration. . . .

"I must consider that it never was intended that this Instrument [the Trust Deed] was to be construed, separate and apart, as if this Chapel stood alone. I must consider that it never was intended by the parties who have continued to belong to the Methodist Society in succession, since the time when it had its origin, that there should be anything

GENERAL REGULATIONS AFFECTING TRUSTEES.

Exit in case of Fire.—In all cases the provision for exit [from our Chapels] should be such as would satisfy the Local Authorities that have jurisdiction over Places of Assembly other than those registered for Public Worship. All doors in aisles and corridors should be made to open outwards; the pews should be without doors; large Chapels should have provision for exit at both ends, and separate and additional provision for exit should be made where there are galleries (1892, p. 248).

Army Capitation Payments.—Claims having been made by the Trustees of several of our Chapels for payment for seats occupied by British troops, application was made to the War Office on this account, it being considered that these payments constitute a fair charge on the Authorities, who require the men to be marched to our Chapels; and Her Majesty's Government having been pleased, in meeting this claim, to offer the fullest recognition of Methodism in the Army by granting Capitation Allowances for Wesleyan soldiers, such as are now received from the Admiralty in various Circuits on behalf of Wesleyans in the Royal Navy, the Conference resolves to accept this offer, being convinced that there is no principle involved which makes this action inexpedient; and instructs the Committees concerned to take such steps in relation to the Grants that may be made as will secure fair remuneration to Trustees for pews allotted to Wesleyan soldiers in our Chapels, and, at the same time, the utmost efficiency of our work in the Army (1881, p. 239).

else but one general object pursued, unless indeed there might be any particular bye-laws, or rules and regulations, of a local kind; but that it was the object and intent of all parties concerned to form one Body, to be governed by one set of laws. Although it may be perfectly true, to a certain extent, that the persons appointed Trustees under the Deed of 1781 might consider themselves called upon to execute their trust with regard to a certain then-existing set of laws, it appears to me that if, in the progress of time, the persons who were Trustees for the time being, as successors to the first Trustees under the Deed of 1781, received into their Chapel a person appointed by the Yearly Conference to preach, they must take that person into their Chapel, and deal with him, not merely on what is the general expression of the obligations of the Trust Deed, but according to all the Rules from time to time enacted by the Conference, which, it is admitted on all hands, has been the supreme legislative and executive Body since the death of Mr. Wesley" (*Summary of Methodist Law and Discipline*, pp. 69, 70).

OLD CHAPELS IN LARGE TOWNS WITH DECREASING CONGREGATIONS.

1. The Conference approves the recommendations of the Committee as to the means whereby Chapels, now partially or almost entirely deserted, may become successful Mission Chapels.

2. The Conference authorises the issue of the recommendations of the Committee for the practical consideration of Ministers and Trustees of Chapels where the congregations, though large, are decreasing year by year.

3. The Conference does not propose that all Chapels with declining congregations shall be worked as Mission Chapels, but directs that suitable means should be employed in every case to prevent further decay and secure recovery (1886, pp. 275, 276).

N.B.—For Abstract of the Report of the Committee, see *Minutes*, 1887, p. 361. See also p. 188.

Trustees and the Circuit Quarterly Meeting.—"All the Trustees of Chapels situate in places named on the Circuit Plan, such Trustees being Members of Society in the Circuit, whether residing in the Circuit or not," are Members of the Circuit Quarterly Meeting (1872, vol. xviii. pp. 652, 653).

N.B.—When the Trustee of a Chapel withdraws or is excluded from the Society, he is no longer a Member of the Circuit Quarterly Meeting. See pp. 291, 292.

TRUSTEES OF DAY SCHOOLS.

Day Schools held in Premises Settled on the Chapel Model Deed.—Day Schools erected on sites settled on the Trusts of the Chapel Model Deed are held by the same Trustees as the Chapel Property. School-rooms underneath Chapels are, as a matter of course, held on the same Trusts as the Chapel.

Day Schools Settled on School Model Deeds.—Buildings erected on land separately conveyed and designed for the use of Day Schools are usually settled on one of the School Model Deeds.

School Model Deed, No. I.—This Deed relates to premises built with the aid of a grant from the Government; and no sale of the property can be effected without the consent of the Secretary of State for the Home Department. The provision is as follows:—

Provided nevertheless that, unless the sum which shall be advanced out of such Parliamentary Grant as aforesaid shall, with the consent of the Secretary of State for the Home Department, have been repaid to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury for the time being, no sale or disposition of the hereditaments hereby appointed, granted, and released, or of any part or parts thereof, nor any application of the produce of the sale thereof, shall be made without the consent, in writing, of the Secretary of State aforesaid first had and obtained (*School Model Deed, No. I., p. 22*).

The Government has discontinued making Building Grants, and Day School premises are no longer settled on this Trust Deed.

School Model Deed, No. II.—All the School rooms or houses built, or to be built, for Wesleyan Schools shall be held in trust for the Connexion, in a manner similar to the settlement of Chapel Property among the Wesleyan Methodists, and in accordance with the provisions of the School Model Deed (formerly known as No. II.) adopted by the Conference in 1845 (1873, vol. xix. p. 179). See also p. 315 (1).

N.B.—It is not now expedient to make use of the School Model Deeds.

Charge for Rent.—By a Regulation of the Education Department, “no charge for rent of the premises is admissible if they are held in trust for Educational purposes;” but Trustees are legally entitled to charge a reasonable rent for Day Schools held in premises settled on the Trusts of the Chapel Model Deed.

Day School Committee.—Two Trustees for the time being of the School-house or School-houses, or School-room or School-rooms, annually appointed by the Trustees for the time being from among themselves, are Members of the Local Committee of Management. For *Constitution of Committee*, see p. 385.

Transfer or Closing of Day Schools.—See pp. 246, 247.

For Regulations relating to the Management of Day Schools, see pp. 385–389.

CHAPTER XIV

CIRCUIT ADMINISTRATION : SUNDAY AND WEEK-DAY SCHOOLS—
WESLEYAN SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS — BANDS OF HOPE —
TEMPERANCE SOCIETIES.

IN the administration of Circuits the care and oversight of Sunday and Week-day Schools claim special attention. The Rules sanctioned and recommended by the Conference for the management of these Institutions are given at length in the Plan of Wesleyan Education, which will be found in Part III. Chapter IX. of this work (see pp. 379–389). In this place it will only be necessary to advert to those particulars which bear more immediately on the practical working of Sunday and Day Schools in Circuit Administration.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

Committee of Management.—The general management of Wesleyan Methodist *Sunday Schools* is entrusted to a *Committee*, including all the Ministers of the Circuit, the Treasurer, the General Secretary, the Superintendents of the School ; and of six, nine, or more persons, one-third of whom are to be chosen by the Leaders' Meeting, as representing the Society with which the School is connected ; one-third being Teachers, Secretaries, or Librarians of the School, by a General Teachers' Meeting, and one-third by the retiring Committee at their last Meeting in December. The persons chosen by the Leaders' Meeting and the Teachers' Meeting must be Members of the

Wesleyan Methodist Society; while those chosen by the retiring Committee, if not Members of the Society, must be Members of the Congregation, or Subscribers to the School who are believed to be cordially attached to the principles and polity of Wesleyan Methodism.

Meetings of Committee.—The Committee is to meet at least once every quarter, and oftener if required, with the concurrence of the Superintendent of the Circuit; and five Members form a quorum. The Superintendent of the Circuit is, *ex officio*, the Chairman of the Committee; and in his absence one of the other Ministers of the Circuit is to preside. If no Minister is present, the Meeting is to appoint one of the Officers of the Institution to act as its Chairman.

Teachers' Qualifications.—(1) The *Teachers*, “wherever practicable,” are to be Members of the Wesleyan Methodist Society; but if not, they must at least be regular attendants at the Chapel, of good moral character, heartily attached to the Doctrines and Discipline of Methodism, and willing to observe the Rules of the School. (2) Persons may be received on trial for the office of Teacher by the Superintendent of the School; and after a probation of three months, if it is satisfactory, they are to be “nominated by him at a regular Teachers’ Meeting, and elected by the Meeting; subject, however, to the approbation of the Committee.” (3) It is further provided that “no person shall be continued as an Officer or Teacher, who shall at any time be declared, by the Committee or the Leaders’ Meeting, unfit, in respect of general character or of religious opinions, for the office he sustains, or for taking part in the Christian education of the young.”

Teachers' Meetings.—Teachers’ Meetings for inquiry, consultation, and prayer, are to be held quarterly, previously to the ordinary meetings of the Committee. In these meetings the Superintendent of the Circuit presides, and, in his absence, one

of the other Ministers of the Circuit. Should no Minister be present, one of the Superintendents of the School is to preside.

United Meeting of Committee and Teachers.—An important provision as affecting Sunday Schools, is, that “a United Meeting of the Committee and Teachers shall be held once in every six months, or oftener if need be, on some suitable week-day evening, expressly for the recognition of newly-appointed Teachers, when the Chairman shall present the Rules, and give appropriate advice and encouragement to the Teachers thus recognised” (1873, vol. xix. p. 175).

Practical Directions for the Internal Management of Sunday Schools.—See *The Plan of Wesleyan Education*, p. 384.

Public Worship.—The Conference resolves that, while it may be well to provide a separate service for very young children, it is most undesirable that Scholars of eight years of age and upwards should be kept from the services in the Chapels (1885, p. 245). See p. 383.

Day of Special Prayer.—The Conference authorises the observance of the third Sunday in October in each year as a day of Special Prayer on behalf of Sunday Schools and Young People (1878, p. 242).

Catechisms.—1. The Conference attaches the utmost importance to doctrinal teaching in Sunday Schools by means of Catechetical instruction, and directs that Ministers shall give special attention to this subject. Superintendents and Teachers are also urgently and affectionately recommended to do their utmost to promote the use of our own Catechisms in our Sunday Schools (1890, p. 279). See p. 382 (xv.).

2. The Conference recommends the Superintendents of Circuits, wherever they may find it practicable, to make arrangements, in conjunction with the Sunday School Committees, for the Annual Public Examination in the Catechisms of the

children of our Sunday Schools ; and that such Examination shall, where possible, be held in the Chapels (1882, pp. 224, 225). See p. 382 (xv.).

Intemperance.—The Conference recommends that on the last Sunday in November in each year, special reference shall be made in . . . all our Sunday Schools to the appalling extent and dire results of Intemperance (1887, p. 254).

Closing of Sunday Schools.—The Conference directs that the District Education Committee shall be consulted before a Sunday School is closed (1894, p. 324).

Representation of Sunday Schools in Circuit Quarterly Meetings.—See p. 405.

DAY SCHOOLS.

Day Schools form an important branch of Wesleyan Methodist Economy, and the Conference has “earnestly urged upon all the Societies to promote the formation of Week-day Schools in connexion with every principal Chapel in each Circuit” (1873, vol. xix. p. 180). Recent Government Regulations, however, tend to restrict the number of Day Schools which can receive aid from Parliamentary Grant towards their maintenance, so that before any new Day School is undertaken the proposal should be submitted to the Secretary of the Wesleyan Education Committee, in order that the advice of that Committee may be obtained through him. The Conference, moreover, has declared “that the primary object of Methodist policy in the matter of Elementary Education is the establishment of School Boards everywhere, acting in districts of sufficient area, and the placing of a Christian unsectarian school within reasonable distance of every family.” It has, however, at the same time declared “that so long as Denominational Schools form part of the National System of Education, our Connexional Day Schools and Training Colleges shall be maintained in full vigour and efficiency” (1891, p. 302).

The Principles and Regulations on which Wesleyan Day

Schools are to be conducted are given in full in the Plan of Wesleyan Education (pp. 385-389). The following particulars refer especially to the practical working and administration of Day Schools.

Government.

Each Day School is "under the immediate care and direction of a Local Committee, annually appointed, which must include the Ministers of the Circuit, the Officers of the School, such as the Treasurer, Secretaries, and Visitors, and a suitable number of the friends of Education connected with our Body, either as Members of our Society, or, at least, as worshippers in our Chapels" (1873, vol. xix. p. 178). In the case of Day Schools held in premises settled upon either of the School Model Deeds, the Committee must be constituted according to a clause in the said Deeds which is quoted in the Plan of Wesleyan Education (p. 385).

Under Pastoral Charge of Ministers.

The Day Schools of a Circuit are considered by the Conference to form part of the Pastoral charge of the Ministers of the Circuit. It is expressly required that "arrangements shall be made upon each Circuit Plan for the regular visitation of each Day School in the Circuit, by one or more of the Ministers of the Circuit, for religious instruction and catechising, during the time shown to be allotted for such purposes by the time-table of each School" (1873, vol. xix. pp. 179, 180). The Pupil Teachers are especially commended to the Pastoral regard of the Ministers, more particularly in respect of the fostering and development of their religious principles.

New Schools.

The Conference of 1897 directed that the following Resolutions, previously adopted, shall be reprinted:—1. All who are contemplating the erection or alteration of premises for the establishment of new Schools shall communicate with the Education Committee, for the purpose of receiving counsel as to their projected undertakings and the adaptation of the premises to the system of instruction designed to be adopted.

2. The Conference empowers the Education Committee to make Grants on inspection to new Schools to which the provisions of the Minute of the Education Department, dated June 21, 1878, apply,

and for the probationary period during which, under the said Minute, such Schools cannot receive Grants in aid from the Department.

3. The Conference declares that it shall not be deemed to be within the power and option of a Superintendent to prevent the establishment or continuance of a Wesleyan Day School, so long as responsible parties pledge themselves to bear all the financial cost and risk. See p. 389.

Erection and Enlargement.

1. Parties contemplating the erection of premises (or any expensive alteration or enlargement of premises already erected) for the establishment of new Schools, are directed to communicate, *first*, with the Education Committee, for the purpose of receiving suitable counsel as to the general eligibility of their projected undertaking; and the adaptation of the premises to the system of instruction designed to be adopted; and, *secondly*, with the Chapel Building Committee, for the purpose of receiving such advice and assistance in regard to the proposed building-plans and estimates as the experience of that Committee may enable them to give (1845, vol. x. p. 240; 1873, vol. xix. p. 181).

2. The Conference directs that any enlargement of a School-room used as a Day School, and not connected with a Chapel Trust Estate, the income of which may, in the united judgment of the Education Committee and the Chapel Committee, be available and sufficient for the payment of interest, as well as of any debt allowed, shall be subject to the Regulations which apply to the enlargement of Chapels (1879, p. 214). For *Regulations relating to the Enlargement of Chapels*, see pp. 311-314.

Closing or Transfer of Schools.

1. The Conference directs that in all cases of difficulty in carrying on our Connexional Day Schools that are likely to result in the closing or transfer of such Schools, before such action be initiated the District Education Committee shall be consulted; it being understood that such consultation shall not interfere with the direction of the Conference requiring consultation with the General Education Committee.

2. The Conference directs that in all ordinary cases of Day Schools conducted on Wesleyan Trust premises, no such Schools shall be discontinued so long as there is a reasonable prospect of their being carried on without serious embarrassment. The same general principle shall apply to Wesleyan Day Schools conducted in

premises rented for the purpose under the management of a recognised Wesleyan School Committee.

3. When the discontinuance of a Day School is proposed, before such proposal is carried into effect, the Superintendent shall consult the Trustees, the Managing Committee, and the Subscribers; and if in any case there is a considerable division of opinion, the case shall be submitted to the Quarterly Meeting of the Circuit. In all cases the general principle laid down by the Conference respecting the transfer of Schools, viz. that the Superintendents of the Circuits, with the Managers and Trustees acting in concert, shall consult the Education Committee, shall be adhered to.

4. In view of the interpretation which is put upon Section XXIII. of the Elementary Education Act by the Lords of the Committee of Council, to the effect that any transfer of a School, settled upon our School Model Deed, No. I., to a School Board, for any term whatever, for the purposes of such School Board, must be sanctioned not only by the signatures of the Trustees, but by the Conference, testified by the President in writing,—the Conference directs that in every case in which the transfer of such a School is proposed, the Superintendent, with the Managers and Trustees acting in concert, shall first consult the Education Committee on the subject, and that if, for reasons given, that Committee recommends such a transfer, the Rules of the Conference in relation to the sale of Trust Property shall be applicable thereto; the Education Committee considering all questions affecting School Management, and the Chapel Committee questions affecting Trust Property.

5. In respect to Schools settled on the School Model Deed, No. II., or on any other Deed in which the consent of the Conference is rendered necessary for the alienation of the property, the Conference recommends the Trustees to act upon the same principles as those laid down in the foregoing clause in relation to Schools settled on the School Model Deed, No. I.

6. In all cases of transfer which may hereafter occur, the Conference recommends that provision be made in the instrument of transfer to secure the resumption of the premises by the Trustees, without their being required to reimburse any money laid out upon them by the School Board solely for its own purposes (1878, p. 241).

Religious Instruction.

1. The Managers of every School shall require from the Teacher, at least once a year, a Report as to the nature and extent of the Religious Instruction given in the School, in order that they may be satisfied that the truths of Scripture are regularly taught to the children.

2. It is deemed desirable that the Managers shall arrange, in conjunction with the Teacher, for regular Examinations of the School in Religious Knowledge ; such Examinations to be conducted, as to time and method, as circumstances may require.

3. A General Report on the Religious Instruction given in the Day Schools, founded upon the Teachers' Reports from the several Schools, as well as upon the personal visitation of the Ministers, shall be submitted to the March Quarterly Meetings, when the Returns as to the Day and Sunday Schools of the Circuit are presented (1888, pp. 268, 269).

Examination of Pupil Teachers.

The October Examination of Pupil Teachers in Religious Knowledge shall be held on the *last* Saturday of that month. The March Examination will continue to be held on the *first* Saturday of that month.

Methodist Educational Policy.

The following is the declaration of the Conference :—

1. That the primary object of Methodist policy in the matter of Elementary Education is the establishment of School Boards everywhere, acting in districts of sufficient area, and the placing of a Christian unsectarian school within reasonable distance of every family. This is of special importance in rural districts, where our people have no alternative to the compulsory attendance of their children at Anglican Schools.

2. That there should be no increased grant of public funds, whether from the local rates or from the imperial taxes, to Denominational Schools, unless that increased grant is accompanied by adequate and representative public management.

3. That no National System of Education which shall exclude from the Day Schools the Bible, and Religious Instruction therefrom by the Teachers, suited to the capacities of children, will meet the necessity of the country.

4. That our Connexional Training Colleges should be maintained in full vigour and efficiency.

5. And, lastly, that with respect to our Connexional Day Schools, the Conference repeats its often-declared sense of the great services they have rendered to Methodism, and to the sacred cause of National Christian Education ; and it emphasises their special importance in those localities where it is impossible to establish School Boards acting in districts of sufficient area, and having under their control Christian unsectarian schools (1897, pp. 307-311).

WESLEYAN SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS.

The Voluntary Schools Act, 1897, provides—

1. That there shall be annually paid out of moneys provided by Parliament an aid grant, not exceeding in the aggregate five shillings per scholar for the whole number of scholars in those schools.

2. That the aid grant shall be distributed by the Education Department to such voluntary schools, and in such manner and amounts, as the Department think best for the purpose of helping necessitous schools and increasing their efficiency, due regard being had to the maintenance of voluntary subscriptions.

3. That if associations of schools are constituted in such manner, in such areas, and with such governing bodies representative of the managers as are approved by the Education Department, there shall be allotted to each association while so approved—

(a) A share of the aid grant, to be computed according to the number of scholars in the schools of the association at the rate of five shillings per scholar, or, if the Department fix different rates for town and country schools respectively (which they are hereby empowered to do), then at those rates; and

(b) A corresponding share of any sum which may be available out of the aid grant after distribution has been made to unassociated schools.

4. That the share so allotted to each such association shall be distributed as aforesaid by the Education Department after consulting the governing body of the association, and in accordance with any scheme prepared by that body which the Department for the time being approve.

The Act also repeals that part of Section XIX. of the Elementary Education Act, 1876, which limits the Government grant to 17s. 6d. per child in average attendance at the School during the year, and further, exempts Day Schools from local rates.

Constitution of the Associations.

The Education Department sanctioned the formation of Wesleyan School Associations. The following constitution of the Associations was approved by the Education Department, and unanimously adopted by the Representatives of the Managers of the Schools in each Association:—

1. The Managers of each Wesleyan School shall elect one representative for each School Department under a separate Head Teacher; the representative need not be a member of the Managing Committee.

2. Representatives of the Managers shall elect from among themselves members of the Governing Body of the Association ; one such member being elected for every four or fraction of four schools or departments, to serve on the Governing Body for the three years next ensuing.
3. The members of the Governing Body thus elected shall co-opt on the Governing Body an additional number of members, not being more than one-third as many as the elected members, for the three years next ensuing.
4. The Governing Body shall elect a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, and a Secretary. All vacancies on the Governing Body, during the three years, shall be filled up by co-option. The Governing Body shall be arranged so as to provide that, as far as practicable, at least half the Governing Body shall consist of Laymen.
5. The Governing Body shall be empowered to prepare a Scheme, to be submitted to the Education Department, for the distribution of the Special Aid Grant allocated under the Voluntary Schools Act, 1897 ; but Central and Local Committees, consisting of members of the Governing Body and others, may be appointed for the purpose especially of obtaining the information necessary for the preparation of such Scheme.
6. The Governing Body may in no case interfere with the management of any associated school, but may advise with the Managers.

The Associations are as follows :—

(i.) *London and South-East Association*.—Including all the Wesleyan Schools in the following Districts—First London, Second London, Third London, Bedford and Northampton, Kent, East Anglia, Oxford, and Portsmouth.

(ii.) *South-West Association*.—Including all the Wesleyan Schools in the following Districts—Devonport and Plymouth, Cornwall, Exeter, Bristol and Bath, and Cardiff and Swansea.

(iii.) *Midland Association*.—Including all the Wesleyan Schools in the following Districts—Birmingham and Shrewsbury, Macclesfield, Sheffield, and Nottingham and Derby.

(iv.) *North-West Association*.—Including all the Wesleyan Schools in the following Districts—Liverpool, Bolton, and Carlisle.

(v.) *North Central Association*.—Including all the Wesleyan Schools in the following Districts—Manchester, Halifax and Bradford, and Leeds.

(vi.) *North-East Association*.—Including all the Wesleyan Schools in the following Districts—Lincoln, Hull, York, Whitby and Darlington, and Newcastle-on-Tyne.

N.B.—A few Schools belonging to other Denominations are included in Wesleyan School Associations.

The amount of Aid Grant allotted to the Wesleyan Schools in the several Associations, and distributed for the benefit of Education, in the year 1897, was £35,265, 18s. 9d. By the abolition of the 17s. 6d. limit and exemption from local rates the Act has brought to Wesleyan Day Schools, directly or indirectly, a sum equal to about £40,000 per annum.

BANDS OF HOPE.

The Conference has for some years sanctioned and encouraged the formation of *Bands of Hope* in connection with Sunday Schools, under the supervision of the Ministers of the Circuit and the local Sunday School Committees; and in the year 1877 a Scheme for the Constitution and Management of such Bands of Hope was adopted. It is one feature of the Scheme, that the general management of them shall be entrusted to a Committee, consisting of all the Ministers of the Circuit, a Treasurer, a Conductor, a Secretary, and a Registrar, who shall be Members of the Society, and by preference Officers or Teachers in the Sunday School, together with six or more persons, of whom it is desirable that one-half at least should be Abstainers. The Scheme itself is given *in extenso* in Part III. Chapter XIII. of this work (see pp. 424–427).

TEMPERANCE SOCIETIES.

In the Chapter just referred to will be found also the Scheme for the Formation of *Circuit Organisations for the Promotion of Temperance*. The principle upon which Wesleyan Methodist Temperance Societies are recommended to be founded is the co-operation of Abstainers and non-Abstainers. “The Conference, while urging that, wherever possible, its original Rule shall be adhered to, nevertheless sanctions the formation of Societies, upon a Total Abstinence basis, in Circuits where this appears to be the most desirable method of working”

(1892, p. 304). The management of such Societies is to be confided to a Committee, of which the Superintendent of the Circuit is, *ex officio*, the Chairman. The Committee, if practicable, is to be composed of Abstainers and non-Abstainers. "Two-thirds, at least, of this Committee must be Members of the Wesleyan Methodist Society, and the remainder regular attendants on the Wesleyan Methodist ministry."

In the legislation of the Conference of 1879, a Scheme was sanctioned for the formation of the several Wesleyan Methodist Temperance Societies and Bands of Hope in any Circuit into a Circuit Temperance Union. This Scheme also is given in Part III. Chapter XIII. of the present work, pp. 428-431.

PART III

THE INSTITUTIONS AND CONNEXIONAL FUNDS OF WESLEYAN METHODISM

CHAPTER I

THE WESLEYAN METHODIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY—AUXILIARY AND BRANCH SOCIETIES—JUVENILE HOME AND FOREIGN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATIONS—THE WOMEN'S AUXILIARY FOR FEMALE EDUCATION.

METHODISM is essentially missionary in its spirit and aims; while its organisation, from the very first, has been designed to spread Scriptural holiness throughout our country and the world. During the life of its Founder, Missionaries were sent forth to our North American Colonies, the West Indies, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland. There was not, indeed, at that time, nor for many years afterwards, any organised Missionary Society. "On Dr. Coke," to quote the language of the *Report of the Jubilee Fund of the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society*, "devolved the general oversight of the work abroad, as the general oversight of the work at home devolved on Mr. Wesley; the funds necessary for the support of the Foreign Missions being supplied chiefly through the private munificence and unwearied exertions of Dr. Coke."

In the year 1813, when Dr. Coke was about to embark for Ceylon with a band of Missionaries, the first Methodist

Missionary Meeting was held in Leeds, and a Methodist Missionary Society for the Leeds District was formed. This step was approved by the Conference of 1814, and recommended to the imitation of the other Districts of the Connexion. In the following year an Executive Committee was appointed to superintend the Missions and Missionaries during the intervals of the Meeting of the Conference, and also a Committee of Examination and Finance, consisting partly of Laymen. In 1817 various Resolutions were adopted on the recommendation of the Committee of Examination and Finance, together with the outline of a Plan for the formation of a General Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society. That outline was enlarged and perfected during the year; and at the Conference of 1818 the Scheme in its complete form was adopted. A few modifications were introduced in the years 1819, 1836, and 1869; and still greater changes were rendered necessary by the Scheme of Lay Representation in the Conference adopted in 1877, and by the arrangements for the nomination of Mixed Committees adopted by the Conference of 1882.

REVISED RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE WESLEYAN METHODIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

The following Rules and Regulations were adopted by the Conference of 1884:—

I. This Institution shall be designated **THE WESLEYAN METHODIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY.**

II. The object of this Society is to combine the exertions of the Societies and Congregations of the Wesleyan Methodists in the support and extension of the Foreign Missions which were first established by the Rev. John Wesley, M.A., the Rev. Thomas Coke, D.C.L., and others; and which are now, or shall be, from year to year carried on under the direction or with the sanction of the Yearly Conference of the people called Methodists.

III. All Benefactors of Ten Pounds and upwards, and all Annual Subscribers of One Guinea and upwards to the Society, directly or through any of its Auxiliaries or Branches, shall be, in right of such benefaction or subscription, Members of the Society, and shall

be entitled as such to a copy of the Annual Report, as well as to a copy of the Report (if there be one) of the District Auxiliary or Local Branch, and a copy of each number of the "Missionary Notices."

IV. All persons who collect to the amount of one shilling or upwards weekly, or of five shillings or upwards monthly, for the Society, or for any of its Auxiliaries or Branches, shall also be Members of the Society, and, as such, entitled to a copy of the Annual Report, and the Report of any Auxiliary or Branch with which such Collectors may be connected, and of the "Missionary Notices."

V. A Committee shall be annually appointed by the Conference, in accordance with such Regulations for its constitution as from time to time may be in force. To this Committee shall be entrusted the superintendence of the collection and disbursement of all moneys raised for the purpose of the Society, and also the general management of the Missions, subject to the General Rules and Usages of the Connexion. Meetings of this Committee shall be held in London once a month, or oftener, for the transaction of business.

VI. Two Treasurers, one of whom shall be a Minister and one a Layman, shall be annually appointed by the Conference in accordance with such Connexional Rules as from time to time may be in force.

VII. The General Secretaries of the Society shall be annually appointed by the Conference in accordance with any Regulations which may from time to time be in force touching such appointments.

VIII. The Committee shall at its first meeting after the Conference appoint a Finance and General Purposes Sub-Committee, whose duty it shall be to meet weekly, to consider and report upon any matters, financial or otherwise, which may be submitted to it, and generally to prepare business for the Committee.

IX. The accounts of the Society shall be annually audited by a professional Auditor, who shall be appointed annually by the Committee.

X. As the Missionaries who are sent out from this country to labour under the direction of this Society are to be Ministers in connexion with the Yearly Conference, and have generally a claim to be recognised as such on their return from Foreign Stations, the selection of Candidates for the Mission Work shall be made in accordance with any Regulations which may be in force from time to time for the selection of Candidates for the Home Work. See *Lay Agents in the Foreign Field*, p. 258.

XI. If in the interval between the Annual Meetings of the Conference the list of accepted Candidates shall be exhausted, and more are urgently wanted, or if a Missionary with special qualifica-

tions shall be immediately required, the Committee shall be at liberty to employ other suitable persons; provided always that such persons shall have been previously recommended by their respective Superintendents, and by the Quarterly Meetings of the Circuits to which they belong, and either by the District Synods, or by three neighbouring Superintendents, and shall also have been examined and approved by a Special Committee, constituted as hereinafter described. But this liberty shall be used by the Committee only in cases of pressing emergency, and then only with the expressed consent of the President of the Conference for the time being.

XII. The trial of any Missionary who may at any time be accused of misconduct, or of any departure from the Doctrines and Discipline of the Connexion, shall in all ordinary cases be left with the District Synod to which he may belong, according to the General Rules and Usages of the Methodist Conference. But the Conference may at any time recall any Missionary for any reason which it may deem sufficient; and in the intervals between the Annual Meetings of the Conference, the Committee in London shall possess and may exercise a similar power of recall, and of putting any Missionary so recalled upon his trial, either at the ensuing Conference, or, in a case requiring immediate decision, before a Special Committee, constituted as hereinafter described.

XIII. The Special Committee, to which reference is made in the two foregoing Regulations, shall consist of the Ministerial Officers and Members of the Missionary Committee, together with three Ministers from each London District, who shall be annually appointed by the Conference. The President of the Conference for the time being, or in his absence an ex-President, shall preside at the Meetings of this Committee.

XIV. An Annual Public Meeting of the Members and Friends of this Society shall be held in London on the Monday preceding the first Wednesday in May. In connexion with this Anniversary, there shall be such other religious services as may be deemed expedient.

XV. Missionary Societies for the several Districts into which the Connexion is divided, in this kingdom or elsewhere, shall be entitled Auxiliary Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Societies for the Districts in which they have been or may be formed. The Treasurer of each District Auxiliary shall be appointed by the Financial District Synod in September.

XVI. Missionary Societies in the several Circuits of any District shall be entitled Branch Societies for the Circuits, or, if there be more than one such Society in any Circuit, they shall be entitled Branch Societies, Juvenile or otherwise, for the cities, towns, or villages in which they are or shall be established.

XVII. A Committee shall be appointed in connexion with each District Auxiliary and Local Branch Society. It shall be the duty of these Committees to supervise and promote the efficiency of the Societies with which they are severally connected. These Committees shall be appointed at the Annual Meetings of the respective Societies.

XVIII. The money raised in any Circuit for the purposes of the Society, in whatever way collected, shall be regularly paid by the Local Treasurer whenever he shall have five pounds in hand, and whatever the amount may be, at least once in every three months, to the Treasurer of the District Auxiliary in which the said Circuit is situated, with the deduction only of any sums that may have been incidentally expended for the purposes of the Local Branch.

XIX. The Treasurer of every District Auxiliary shall remit to the General Treasurers of the Society whenever he has twenty-five pounds in hand from any or all sources; and at least once in every quarter he shall remit the total balance of all sums received by him from the various Circuits in his District, deducting only the necessary incidental expenses incurred by the Auxiliary Society.

XX. Subject to the provisions of Regulation No. XXIII., it shall be the duty of the Local Secretaries to summon the Local Committees at least once a quarter, and to keep Minutes of their proceedings. In co-operation with the Committees, they shall provide for the thorough canvass of the several Congregations; they shall meet the Collectors once in every month, and receive the money collected, and pay the same to the Local Treasurer; they shall secure the punctual distribution of the Reports and Monthly Notices; and they shall see that due arrangements are made for the holding of Monthly Missionary Prayer Meetings, in accordance with the Regulation of the Conference in 1815, and republished in 1883, and for Anniversary Services.

XXI. It shall also be the duty of the Treasurers and Secretaries of every Branch Society, or other Local Association, to forward annually to the Secretaries of the Auxiliary Society for their District an Alphabetical List of all the Benefactors and Subscribers during the preceding twelve months, with an account of their respective contributions, stating, at the same time, what portion of the sum so received has been detained for local expenses, and what portion has been paid to the Treasurer for the District. And the Treasurer and Secretaries of every District Auxiliary Society shall also forward annually to the General Secretaries a similar List of the Benefactors and Subscribers in all the Circuits of their District, and an abstract of the account of the Auxiliary Society, showing its gross receipts, its local payments, and its remittance to the General Treasurers.

XXII. All the Members of the Society and of the Auxiliary and Branch Societies are earnestly recommended to consider it as a part of their daily duty to ask for the blessing of the Almighty God upon the efforts of the Society, and upon those of all similar Societies, inasmuch as without His continual grace there can be neither qualified men nor successful labour.

XXIII. The foregoing Regulations shall always be interpreted in harmony with the Laws and Usages of the Connexion, and therefore with a full recognition of the authority and responsibility of the several District Synods, as also of Superintendents and their Colleagues, upon whose sympathy and co-operation the success of the Society and of its several Auxiliaries and Branches must mainly depend.

Length of Service and Furloughs.—1. Whilst the present Rule shall be maintained that no Missionary shall at any time return without the sanction of the Committee, yet every application shall be decided upon its own merits.

2. In the same way, every application for furlough shall be dealt with on its own merits; only providing that after ten years' continuous service each Missionary shall have a claim to a twelve months' furlough (1885, p. 193).

Lay Agents in the Foreign Field.—In addition to Ministers in connexion with the Yearly Conference, the Missionary Committee is empowered to employ in the Foreign Field such Lay Agents as it shall, after careful testing, judge suitable for its work. The Regulations of the Society shall be amended accordingly (1898, p. 261).

Discipline.—All our Rules of Discipline, respecting the admission and exclusion of Members, holding Lovefeasts, etc., shall be strictly enforced, as in Europe; and the authority of the Superintendent, in all these things, shall be the same in every place (1800, vol. ii. p. 56).

General Committee.—The Treasurer of any District Auxiliary Society in Great Britain, and the Chairman of any District, who may be in London at the time of holding any Meeting of the General Committee, shall be entitled to sit and vote with the Committee; and the Treasurer, or Treasurers, of the London Districts Auxiliary Societies shall be regularly summoned to the Committee (1882, p. 396).

DISTRICT MISSIONARY COMMITTEES.

The Conference of 1887 resolved as follows:—

1. That a Foreign Missionary Committee be appointed in each District at the Financial District Synod, to consist of the Chairman

of the District, the Financial Secretary, the District Treasurer, one Ministerial and one Lay District Secretary, with two Ministers and three Laymen, to be elected by the District Synod ; all the Laymen being Members of Society.

2. That the Members of this Committee shall be *ex-officio* Members of the District Synod.

3. That this Committee shall meet whenever necessary during the year ; the date of the first Meeting, to arrange for the business of the Committee for the year, to be fixed at the September District Synod ; and that a Special Meeting shall be held shortly before the May District Synod, to inquire into the organisation and conduct of the Missionary business in each Circuit, and to prepare a Report to be submitted to the District Synod (1887, pp. 256-257).

4. The Conference declares that the appointment of District Missionary Committees (*Minutes*, 1886, p. 213) was not intended to supersede, or in any way set aside, District Auxiliary Committees in the very few Districts where they still existed. The Conference directs that in such Districts it shall be arranged that the Members of the District Committee be Members of the District Auxiliary Committee and be a Sub-Committee thereof. The District Committee will thus be a bond between the Auxiliary Committee and the Synod, and will present to the Synod the Auxiliary Committee's Reports and Suggestions (1896, p. 237).

CIRCUIT MISSIONARY COMMITTEES.

Regulations adopted at the Conference of 1888 :—

1. That in every Circuit where separate Committees for the several Local Branches are not otherwise appointed, such separate Committees or a General Circuit Committee shall be annually appointed by the December Quarterly Meeting.

2. That the accounts of every Branch shall be closed not later than 31st January in each year, and audited during the first week in February by Auditors to be appointed by the preceding December Quarterly Meeting, and that from the accounts so audited the usual Schedule shall be prepared and immediately forwarded to the District Treasurer.

3. That each Branch Committee shall be responsible for securing the audit of its own accounts, and that the Secretary of the Circuit Committee shall be responsible for filling up and forwarding the Circuit Schedule. Where no Circuit Committee exists, a Secretary shall be appointed for the purpose by the preceding December Quarterly Meeting.

4. That the accounts of the several Branches as thus audited shall be reported to the March Quarterly Meeting.

5. That a Special Meeting of the Missionary Committee in every District shall be held as soon as possible after the September Financial District Synods, and that at each of these Synods an Officer or other Representative of the General Committee shall be present, with a view to consultation as to the best means of promoting the interests of Foreign Missions in the District.

6. That in consultation with the District Committees, arrangements shall be made for Central or Circuit Meetings of Committees, Collectors, and Friends ; these Meetings also to be attended by an Officer or other Representative of the Committee, and for purposes similar to those before mentioned.

7. That efforts may be made in connexion with these Meetings to secure a more effective canvass of the Congregations by Collectors for Missions only ; and also the more vigorous working of Juvenile Associations. The Conference, however, would deprecate any movement tending, by means of Juvenile Associations, to supersede the work of those who collect for Foreign Missions only (1888, pp. 221, 222).

The Conference has also resolved as follows :—

In order to bring the affairs of the Foreign Missionary Society into closer relation to the Circuit and under more careful supervision, a Committee for each Circuit, with a Treasurer and two Secretaries (a Minister and a Layman), be appointed annually by the September Quarterly Meeting ; that such Committee shall consist of persons who are specially interested in the work of Foreign Missions ; that it shall have the entire management of all matters throughout the Circuit which affect the interests of the Missionary Society, and arrange for the collection of Subscriptions, the circulation of Literature, and the holding of Public Meetings, in any way it may deem the best ; and that it shall present a Report of its work, with an audit of the accounts, including the date and the amount of each remittance made by the Treasurer, to the September Quarterly Meeting (1893, p. 319).

In no Circuit shall the Missionary Accounts for the year be closed until they have been passed by the Local or Circuit Missionary Committee, and duly signed by the Superintendent of the Circuit (1898, p. 361).

Day of Intercession.

The Conference resolves that the first Monday in October be observed throughout the Connexion as an Annual Day of Intercession for Foreign Missions ; and recommends that, wherever possible, Sermons be preached on the previous Sunday, setting forth the duty of the Church to Christ and the heathen world ;

and that as soon as possible after the September Quarterly Meetings the Local Missionary Committees meet and make special efforts to secure additional Adult Collectors, and a more thorough canvass of every Congregation (1896, p. 237).

JUVENILE MISSIONARY ASSOCIATIONS.

The formation of Juvenile Missionary Associations is earnestly recommended, and such Associations exist in connexion with many of our Sunday Schools. For the most part, however, the objects which they are designed to promote are extended, and their designation is *Juvenile Home and Foreign Missionary Associations*. In some cases, one-half of the net proceeds of these Associations is given to the Foreign Missionary Society, and one-half to the Home Mission and Contingent Fund. When this plan of Juvenile Associations was originally sanctioned by the Conference, it was stipulated that "in every case the contribution to the Foreign Missions shall be at least equal to what has been presented from Christmas offerings on the average of several preceding years" (1863, vol. xv. p. 528). At the Conference of 1869, a threefold division of the sums raised by these Associations was sanctioned, namely, one-third to the Foreign Missionary Society, with the condition just cited; one-third to the Home Mission and Contingent Fund; and one-third to the Circuit, to be expended in support of local movements of *a directly Home Missionary character*, under the direction of the Superintendent, and the Quarterly Meeting, or of a Committee appointed by the December Quarterly Meeting (1869, vol. xvii. p. 602. See also 1879, p. 226).

The Standing Orders of the Conference are as follows:—

1. The Conference is decidedly of opinion that whatever sums, large or small, are collected avowedly for the Foreign or Home Missions, the whole amount should be remitted to the Treasurers of those Funds respectively, to be administered under the direction of their Committees; and that sums so remitted to the Home Mission Fund should entitle a Circuit to favourable consideration

if it requests a Grant for any effort within its boundaries which may be a legitimate object for the application of moneys collected for Home Missions.

2. In the case of Circuits which are not in a position to ask for the appointment of a Home Missionary Minister, and to give the pledge required, but which feel the necessity of adopting some plan of *Home Missionary* operations, the subjoined allocation is allowed : One-third of the sums received to be paid to the funds of the Foreign Missionary Society, it being expressly understood that in every case the contribution to the Foreign Missions shall be at least equal to what has been presented from Christmas offerings, on the average of several preceding years ; one-third to the Home Mission and Contingent Fund ; one-third to the Circuit, to be expended in support of local movements of a *directly Home Missionary character*, under the direction of the Superintendent and of a Committee to be appointed at the December Quarterly Meeting.

3. A return of the gross amounts collected in the various Circuits by Juvenile Missionary Associations, with the proportions of such amount allocated to the various objects, shall be made yearly, at the May Synods (1863, vol. xv. p. 528 ; 1877, vol. xx. p. 398 ; 1885, p. 195 ; 1897, pp. 382, 383).

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY OF THE WESLEYAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

The Wesleyan Missionary Society receives valuable and important aid from the Women's Auxiliary Society. The Committee trains and supports women who are engaged as Medical Missionaries, Teachers and Evangelists, to China, India, Ceylon, Africa, and other parts of the Mission Field. In India several of its Agents are engaged in Zenana work.

REGULATIONS FOR CANDIDATES AND MISSIONARY WORKERS.

The following Information and Instructions are issued by the Women's Auxiliary Society :—

I. Any lady wishing to work for the Society is to apply to the Secretary for Candidates, from whom she will receive instructions for her future guidance.

II. Every Candidate is required to produce satisfactory testimonials from her Superintendent Minister, Class-leader, and employers, or others well known to her, as to her character and abilities ; also a medical certificate from her doctor. She must

pass an examination in religious and secular knowledge, unless she be already a certified teacher. The subjects of the secular examination are English grammar, geography, history, and arithmetic. It will be conducted without aid of books, in presence of the Superintendent Minister, or a deputy appointed by him.

III. If the Secretary for Candidates then considers the applicant eligible, she will summon the Sub-Committee, by whom the case will be considered, and reported to the next Committee.

IV. Before any appointment is finally made, the Candidate will be admitted on probation for a month, during which time one or more officers of the London Committee shall be appointed to converse with her privately. Upon their report, in conjunction with her testimonials and examination papers, the Committee will decide respecting her acceptance.

V. No Candidate shall be finally accepted without a personal interview with the Committee.

VI. Before leaving England, each Missionary Worker is expected to sign an agreement with the Committee for five years' service, binding herself also to maintain such relations towards the Ministers with whom she works as accord with Methodist usage.

VII. A Meeting will be held previous to the departure of the Society's Workers for the purpose of taking leave of them, and commending them to the protection of God.

VIII. The Committee undertake to make proper arrangements for the comfort and protection of their Workers during the voyage, and on their arrival in a foreign land. They also provide for needful rest and change, in case of illness medically certified.

IX. At the end of five years' service, a Missionary Worker is entitled to return home on furlough, and to be absent from her post for twelve months. In this case her passage home is paid, and half her salary allowed. Arrangements will be made by the Ladies' Committee for the fulfilment of her duties abroad meantime. If she is not intending to return to her work, her passage will not be paid until the end of the sixth year.

X. At the expiration of her leave of absence, she must enter into a fresh agreement with the Committee.

XI. Each Missionary Worker is required to send a written Report of her work to the Secretary half-yearly ; but she is also requested to report, as occasion arises, any circumstances of interest relating to her work, thereby to enable the Committee to make those communications to the public which are suited to draw forth the sympathy and prayers of Christian friends.

XII. She is also expected to send in a yearly Schedule of her School, according to the form transmitted to her, by the first of March.

XIII. The salary of the Missionary Workers will vary from £50

to £100 a year, according to the requirements of the School, and the cost of living at the Station.

XIV. Lodgings will be provided for the Missionary Workers, but the cost of their board will be defrayed by themselves.

XV. They are not, when abroad, to engage in any private tuition, but to devote all their energies to their Missionary work.

TERMS OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COMMITTEE OF THE LADIES' AUXILIARY OF THE WESLEYAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY AND THE WORKERS EMPLOYED BY THEM.

I. The agreement of the Committee with their Missionary Workers is for a term of five years' service, at such Stations as the Committee shall appoint, the Committee retaining the power to determine the agreement at six months' notice at any time, or summarily, if needful. If a Worker wishes to leave at the end of the term, she must give six months' previous notice to the Committee.

II. Each Worker is provided with £15 on account of outfit, and her passage is paid, with travelling expenses, to her Station.

III. The Committee will pay the stipulated salary half-yearly in advance, dating from the time of the Worker's arrival at her Station.

IV. The Worker shall not voluntarily, under any circumstances, illness excepted, relinquish her work, without giving the Committee six months' notice.

V. Should the Missionary Worker, before the completion of five years' service, relinquish her work for any other cause than that of illness, she shall refund to the Committee the expenses of her training, outfit, and passage in the following proportions:—

First year or part of year	.	.	.	The whole
Second	"	"	.	The whole
Third	"	"	.	Three-fourths
Fourth	"	"	.	One-half
Fifth	"	"	.	One-fourth

VI. Should the Worker be compelled to retire from the work through ill-health, the Committee will pay the expenses of her return home, under certified medical direction, provided she return within three months after her cessation from work.

VII. The Missionary Worker shall be guided by the advice of the Superintendent of the Circuit in which she resides; in case of serious difference of opinion, she may refer to the Chairman of the District under whose charge she is placed, and she has, further, the privilege of appeal to the District Synod, to whose authority she is amenable until communication can be had with the Ladies' Committee.

CHAPTER II

THE HOME MISSION AND CONTINGENT FUND—COMPENDIUM
OF REGULATIONS AFFECTING IT, AND THE EMPLOYMENT
OF HOME MISSIONARY MINISTERS, DISTRICT MISSIONARIES,
ARMY AND NAVY MINISTERS, AND LAY AGENTS—DIS-
TRICT SUSTENTATION FUND.

THE *Contingent Fund* is one of the oldest of the Connexional Funds of Wesleyan Methodism, having been originated by Mr. Wesley about the year 1756. In the earlier period of Methodism it was applied to purposes which are now dealt with by other Funds. The necessary expenses in carrying out the Connexional principle have been, from the first, recognised as legitimate charges on the Contingent Fund. It has always been employed in aiding to provide means for calling out additional Ministers, and to meet the deficiencies of those who were stationed in the poorer Circuits. The source from which it was derived was the Yearly Collection made in the several Classes at the March Visitation. In the gradual development of Methodism, this Fund has assumed additional importance; and other sources of supply have been provided, while a carefully organised system of administration has been adopted. The title of the Fund now is *The Home Mission and Contingent Fund*. In addition to sustaining, either in whole or in part, Home Missionary Ministers, District Missionaries, Ministers labouring in the Army and Royal Navy, and Lay Agents, this Fund is employed to assist Circuits which could not, without such aid, support the Ministers appointed to them. This is one of the most im-

portant modes in which it contributes to the maintenance and extension of the work of God; for without the help thus afforded, many Ministers must be withdrawn from spheres of labour where their services are urgently needed, to counteract pernicious errors, and to turn men from ungodliness and vice. From this Fund also grants are made, after a careful examination of the applications by the District Synods, and then by the Committee of the Fund, to meet cases of affliction, removal expenses, and other similar expenses, which cannot be defrayed by the Circuits in which the Ministers have been labouring. Supplies sent by the President to fill up vacancies caused by the death or severe affliction of Ministers are partly provided for from this Fund; newly-married Ministers who are stationed in Circuits where there is no Minister's house for them to occupy, have an allowance from this Fund in lieu of such a house; and grants are made from it to assist Circuits to provide additional Ministers' houses, as well as, under special arrangements, to augment the allowances of Ministers in the poorer Circuits of the Connexion. There are also various Connexional expenses, not properly chargeable on Circuits, which are met by this Fund. These are all connected with the carrying out of our Connexional system,—the maintenance of our Discipline and the guarding of the purity of the Ministry,—and the keeping up of fraternal intercourse between the British Conference and distant branches of the Methodist Communion.

At the Conference of 1878, after much preparatory deliberation, a *Compendium of Regulations* respecting the administration of this Fund, and the relations and duties of Home Missionary Ministers, District Missionaries, Army and Navy Ministers, and Lay Agents, either wholly or partially supported by it, was adopted. That Compendium was modified in some particulars by the legislation of the Conference of 1881. The constitution of the Home Mission Committee, and of the Army and Navy Sub-Committee, is in accordance with the Scheme adopted by that Conference, and the arrangements for the

Nomination of Mixed Committees (1882, pp. 385, 386), and subsequently modified (1896, pp. 268, 269).

COMPENDIUM OF REGULATIONS.

The following Compendium of Regulations was approved by the Conference of 1878. The Resolutions which have been subsequently adopted have been inserted with references to the Minutes in respect of the new Rules. Where no direct reference is given, the Resolution is contained in the Compendium of Regulations (1878, pp. 218-234).

I. TITLE OF THE FUND.

The title of the Fund shall be "The Wesleyan Home Mission and Contingent Fund."

II. THE HOME MISSION COMMITTEE.

The Home Mission Committee, as at present constituted, consists of—

1. *Ex-officio* Members, namely, the President and the Secretary of the Conference, the ex-President, the Treasurers and Secretaries of the Fund, the Treasurers and Secretary of the Fund for the Extension of Methodism in Great Britain, the Secretary of the London Wesleyan-Methodist Mission, and the Secretaries of the Foreign Missionary Society.

2. Twenty Ministers and twenty-three Laymen residing in the London Districts.

3. Twelve Ministers and twelve Laymen residing in other than the London Districts.

4. The Chairman of each District in Great Britain.

5. One Layman from each District in Great Britain, to be nominated by the District Synod at its meeting in May.

6. One-sixth of the Members of the Committee shall retire annually by rotation, the same persons being ineligible for immediate re-election, except in special cases, and after nomination for such reappointment by a vote of four-fifths of the Members of the Committee present (1882, p. 383).

7. Special Meetings of the Committee shall be summoned as soon as possible after the May District Synod, and at such other times as may be deemed necessary.

8. The Home Mission Committee is permitted to invite Ministers for Army and Navy work, and for Home Mission work, on Stations where there are no Quarterly Meetings, in the same way as Circuits now invite Circuit Ministers, and as District Home Mission Committees may invite District Missionaries, in accordance with the Regulations adopted by the Conference.

9. The Home Mission Committee has authority to employ, in addition to District Missionaries, Ministers and Lay Agents for general Evangelistic work in different parts of the Connexion (1880, p. 218). See p. 280.

III. SOURCES OF THE FUND.

1. The Sources of Income for the Home Mission Fund shall be as follows :—

- (i.) The Yearly Collection made in the Classes at the March Quarterly Visitation.
- (ii.) Congregational Collections, which shall be made yearly in every Chapel, on some Lord's Day in October, except when the Foreign Missionary Anniversary is held in Autumn, in which case the Sunday Collections for this Fund should be made in April, but in any case, if possible, before the May District Synod (1898, p. 418).
- (iii.) Public Meetings, which shall be held annually in every Circuit, and in every place in each Circuit (1891, p. 267).
- (iv.) Circuit and Juvenile Associations.
The sums collected by Juvenile Associations shall be divided between the Home and Foreign Missionary Funds; but in Circuits where definite Home Missionary operations are being carried on, the subjoined allocation shall be allowed :—
One-third of the sums received by Juvenile Home and Foreign Missionary Associations to be paid to the Foreign Missionary Society ;
One-third to the Home Mission Fund ;
One-third to the Circuit, to be expended in support of local movements of a *directly Home Missionary character*, under the direction of the Superintendent and the Quarterly Meeting, or of a Committee appointed by the December Quarterly Meeting.
- (v.) Private Subscriptions.
- (vi.) Donations and Legacies.
- (vii.) Annual Subscriptions to be requested from the Trust Funds of Chapels.
- (viii.) Contributions from Charitable Trusts, from the Book-Room, and from such other sources as may be available.

2. The amount of Collections and Subscriptions received for this Fund, in each Circuit, shall be immediately remitted to the Deputy Treasurer of the Home Mission Fund, and shall be reported by the Superintendent at the May District Synod. Should any considerable deficiency appear, the Chairman shall make strict inquiry into the case.

3. The District Financial Secretary shall obtain and forward the Circuit Lists, together with all unremitted balances due to the Fund, and shall account for the same to the Financial Secretary of the Fund.

4. The Financial District Synod shall make arrangements for holding as many Meetings as possible in the several Circuits, and shall appoint suitable Deputations to attend them. See p. 287.

IV. DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION.

LEGISLATION RESCINDED.

1. The Conference rescinds the Resolutions of 1878 and 1887 relating to the retention in the Districts of a proportion of the increases of income over the amounts raised in 1878 or 1886; but a sum representing the average of the surpluses for the three years last past (1890, 1891, 1892) in any District shall remain at the disposal of the Synod of such District, provided that the income of the District be maintained.

2. The Conference also rescinds the Regulation of 1878, securing to each District at least its then Ordinary Grant, and resolves that the Ordinary Grant be no longer at the sole disposal of the District Synods. The Conference directs that inquiry be made, year by year, either by the District Synods or their Committees, into the circumstances and needs of each Circuit receiving aid from the Grant; and that a Report be presented to the Home Mission Committee, which shall negotiate with the District Synods concerned in cases where revision of the Grant seems desirable (1893, pp. 259, 260).

District Surpluses.

The increase of income placed at the disposal of certain Districts by the Resolution of the Conference of 1893 shall henceforth be regarded as a special grant to the District concerned, liable to annual revision, either by way of increase or decrease (1898, p. 283).

DISTRICT HOME MISSION COMMITTEE.

To carry out more efficiently the objects of the Fund, and especially to insure the successful working of the Scheme for the employment of Lay Agents, a District Home Mission Committee

shall be appointed at the Financial District Synod in each District. This Committee shall consist of the Chairman and Financial Secretary of the District, and not more than four other Ministers and six Laymen. At least one Lay Member shall retire annually by rotation. Any Member of this Committee, not being otherwise a Member of the District Synod, shall become such by this appointment (1879, p. 228).

N.B.—The Rule requiring that one-half of the Lay Members of the District Home Mission Committee shall be Circuit Stewards at the time of their appointment has been rescinded (1887, p. 218).

Functions of District Home Mission Committees.

The following is a summary of the functions and jurisdictions of the District Home Mission Committee :—

1. To promote generally the Financial interests of the Fund in the various Circuits.

2. To administer within each District, for Home Mission purposes, such moneys as may be agreed upon out of the General Fund.

3. To examine and revise from time to time the appropriations of the Ordinary Grant ; no portion, however, of such Grant to be appropriated otherwise than for ordinary or extraordinary deficiencies without the sanction of the Home Mission Committee.

4. To consider any possible re-arrangement of Circuit Boundaries, with a view to economy and efficiency in working.

5. To have oversight generally of the Home Mission Work in the District, including the work and Journals of any District Missionary, and the Journals of the Home Missionary Ministers employed in the District.

6. To receive applications for Lay Agents ; to inquire as to the character and capabilities of the applicants ; and to arrange for any necessary interchanges amongst the Lay Agents employed in the District (1887, pp. 217, 218).

7. The District Home Mission Committee shall be responsible for making the necessary Financial arrangements for the support of any District Missionary who may be employed in the District, and may invite any Minister as Circuits invite Circuit Ministers. See p. 268.

8. The Conference directs that a Return be furnished by the various District Home Missionary Committees to their respective Synods, of the amount raised in the Circuits to meet Grants made by the Home Mission Committee towards Lay Agency, and of the way in which such moneys are expended (1895, p. 257).

V. GRANTS TO ASSISTED CIRCUITS.

1. Payments from the Home Mission Fund, to assist Circuits to meet the Ordinary Claims of their Ministers, shall be remitted to the Superintendents in four equal instalments; viz. in September, December, March, and June.

2. Grants for Extraordinaries shall be paid through the Financial Secretaries of the respective Districts at the time of the Annual Settlement at Conference.

Grants to increase Allowances.

Temporary Grants for a period to be agreed upon between the Circuit and the Home Missionary Committee may be made to any Circuit, with the approval of the District Synod to which it belongs, to bring the Allowances of its married Ministers up to £130. These Grants are not to exceed the proportion of £1 from the Fund for £1 raised in the Circuit, and are to be made on the condition that the Allowances shall not afterwards be reduced below £130.

Grants to Dependent Circuits.

Whilst every consideration and sufficient assistance should be afforded—by Ordinary Grants—to Circuits that are financially unable to provide for the support of their Ministers, the Conference directs each District Synod to encourage Circuits that are capable of becoming self-supporting to declare themselves independent of the Home Mission Fund, thereby adding to their own vigour and enterprise, as well as making the Grants now received by them available for aggressive work in other parts of the District (1880, p. 218).

N.B.—Special inquiry is to be made as to the financial state of Circuits and the local contributions (1809, vol. iii. pp. 89, 90).

Ordinary Grant and the Withdrawal of a Minister.

The Conference resolves that whenever a Minister shall be withdrawn from a Circuit in receipt of an Ordinary Grant, the amount of such Grant, unless used for aggressive purposes within the District under the direction of the District Home Mission Committee, shall revert to the General Fund (1881, p. 239).

Grants towards Removal Expenses.

1. If any Minister be appointed by the Conference to a Circuit after an invitation sent by that Circuit to the Minister, every expense incurred by his removal, beyond what the Circuit he is leaving may provide, shall be borne by his new Circuit.

2. A Grant towards the removal expenses of any Minister may be made by the Home Mission Committee so soon as it has been certified by the District Home Mission Committee that the claim is reasonable, that it has been duly submitted to the Quarterly Meeting of the Circuit from which the removal has taken place, and that the Circuit is unable to meet the whole expense.¹

Grants for Afflictions and Funeral Expenses.

1. All Allowances for Affliction, in special cases, to Preachers actually stationed in Circuits, and for Funeral Expenses of Preachers so stationed, where such Allowances cannot be provided by the Circuits, shall in future be made chargeable, as Extraordinaries, on the Contingent Fund, according to our ancient usage; and must, like all other claims for Extraordinaries, pass through the previous examination of the Annual District Synods, and of the Home Mission Committee prior to the Conference (1829, vol. vi. p. 511).

2. Let no more than Twelve Pounds be allowed in future, from our General Funds, towards the Funeral Expenses of any Preacher (1812, vol. iii. p. 293).

N.B.—Funeral Allowances are paid from the Auxiliary Fund for Supernumerary Ministers (1896, p. 279). See p. 373 (10).

3. No Grant for Affliction shall be paid until the claim has first been presented to the Quarterly Meeting of the Circuit from which the application comes, and has been approved by the District Synod to which the Circuit belongs.

4. As the law of Christ not only devolves the support of Christian Ministers upon the people of their charge, but enjoins love and esteem towards them for their work's sake, self-supporting Circuits are urged to avoid, so far as possible, making applications to this Fund for Grants towards the Afflictions and the Funeral Expenses of their own Ministers (1880, p. 219).

Grants for Circuit Travelling.

1. All applications for Grants on account of Circuit Travelling, before being paid, must be approved by the May District Synod.

2. Inasmuch as the payments on account of Circuit Travelling have grown, during the last ten years, from £250 to about £700, notwithstanding the great reduction during that period in the dimensions of Circuits and the increase in the numbers of Ministers, the Conference resolves:—(1) That no Grant for Travelling shall be made to any Minister who is not labouring at the time in an

¹ The Conference directs that in Stationing the Preachers the removals be as short as possible (1805, vol. ii. p. 29).

extensive Circuit; (2) that no such Grant shall be made to any Minister who has not been thirty years in the Ministry, except in very special cases of physical inability; (3) that applications in all special cases shall be made to the Home Mission Committee, to be duly considered: the Grants to be voted at the Special Meeting in July (1880, p. 218).

N.B.—The Lay Members of the Conference, who are Members of District Synods, are requested to take especial interest in the distribution of the Grants from the Home Mission Fund in their respective Districts, with a view to secure an increased economy in administration; and to carefully consider what means may be adopted for developing the District contributions, so that out of the sums thus saved, and the increased contributions thus obtained, the District Synods (having now the responsibility of distributing, in addition to the present Ordinary Grants, three-fourths of the increase on the amount raised within the District in 1878) may enter upon new aggressive enterprises within their own bounds (1880, p. 219). See p. 165.

Grants towards Supplies.

1. Any Minister needing a Supply is directed to communicate with the Chairman of the District before applying to the President; and the Chairman is also directed to satisfy himself, by personal inquiry, that an efficient local Supply cannot be obtained (1889, p. 309).

2. Every Preacher sent by the President as a Supply shall be paid at the rate of Thirty Guineas a year for the time he is in the Circuit; this Allowance being in addition to Board and Lodging (1879, p. 229).

3. In respect of payment, the year of a trained man on the President's List of Reserve appointed in connexion with, or immediately after, the Conference, shall reckon from the first day of September to the last day of August (1887, p. 259).

4. In regard to Travelling Expenses, a Preacher sent to a Circuit as a Supply is dealt with on the same principle as one who is appointed by the Conference to his first Circuit. Once arrived in a Circuit as a Supply, he receives his Travelling Expenses from that Circuit to another when removed by the President during the year, or by the Conference at the end of the year (1889, p. 310).

5. The employment of Students as Supplies, otherwise than by the President, during their vacation, shall continue as heretofore to be matter of private arrangement, in regard to which neither the President nor the Home Mission Committee shall have responsibility; except in those special cases in which the Home Mission Committee may grant Supplies for short periods to Chairmen of Districts (1887, p. 260). See p. 93.

For Regulations concerning Supplies, see *Standing Orders of the Conference*, Part I., in the Annual Minutes.

N.B.—A practice having grown up for Preachers on Trial to apply to the Home Mission and Contingent Fund for Grant for Afflictions, Supplies, etc., in the same manner as Ministers in Full Connexion, the Conference declares that, for the future, it be understood that Preachers on Trial have no claim on the Fund for any extraordinary expenses.

Pledges to Support Married instead of Single Ministers.

1. No additional single Preacher can be sent in future to any Circuit unless such Circuit engage to support *an additional married Preacher*, instead of the single Preacher, at the end of four years at the latest (1813, vol. iii. p. 386).

2. In order to possess an explicit record of pledges made to the Conference by Circuits applying for additional Ministers, and engaging to receive and support married Ministers at the time specified, the Treasurers and Secretaries of the Home Mission and Contingent Fund are instructed to prepare a Form of Pledge to be filled up and signed by the Circuit Stewards, countersigned by the Superintendent, and presented at the Conference when the application is made, and these authenticated pledges shall be preserved with the other documents of the Conference (*Journal*, 1858; *Minutes*, 1877, vol. xx. p. 514).

3. Any Circuit making application for an additional Minister shall furnish a house not later than at the end of four years, and at the end of three years wherever practicable; and the Superintendent and Circuit Stewards, acting by the direction of the Quarterly Meeting, shall sign a pledge to this effect, and satisfy the District Synod that there is a reasonable probability that such pledge will be duly redeemed. This pledge shall be in the keeping of the General Secretary of the Home Mission Fund, and a copy of it shall be inserted in the District Minutes (1879, pp. 229, 230). For *Additional Ministers*, see pp. 197, 198.

Provision for Married Ministers.

1. The additional allowance from this Fund to a married Minister in Full Connexion with the Conference, for whom no house is provided, and who would otherwise receive only the allowance of a single Minister, shall be, for Ministers who have travelled four years, at the rate of £40 per annum; and, for Ministers who have travelled five years or upwards, if a house be nowhere available, £50 per annum. These amounts shall be paid in quarterly instalments. See p. 93.

2. Whenever a married Minister is appointed to a Circuit which has failed to fulfil its obligation to provide for a family, the additional amount paid to him shall be entered as a Grant to the Circuit; and, so long as the pledge remains unfulfilled, it shall be considered annually, first in the May District Synod, and then, on the report of that Synod, by the Conference, whether the appointment should be longer continued.

3. In all arrangements for the support of married Ministers for whom houses are not provided, Ministers stationed in Circuits and Home Missionary Ministers shall have the same Grants.

4. Any Circuit providing a house at the end of four years may receive a Grant of £40 towards furniture; if at the end of three years, it may receive £50; if at the end of two years, £60; if at the end of one year, £70; or, if a house be provided when the additional Minister is appointed, £80; but no Circuit shall receive more than £40 so long as any previous obligation to provide for a family remains unfulfilled.

VI. REGULATIONS FOR THE EMPLOYMENT OF A HOME MISSIONARY.

The object proposed in the appointment of additional Ministers to aggressive or Missionary work in our own country is, that specific attention may be given to the neglected and careless portion of the population of our large towns and the rural districts. Their appalling moral and social condition demands a much larger share of the practical sympathy of our Connexion. An increased concern for the religious welfare of our countrymen is already manifested by augmented contributions to the Wesleyan Home Mission and Contingent Fund; and, while anxious to give full support to existing Circuits, to render them still more effective, the Conference desires to see a well-organised effort to extend the work of God in destitute parts of the kingdom.

Home Mission Work not to be Involved or Absorbed in the Present Regular Working of Circuits.

Any new enterprise of an aggressive character, although conducted in harmony with the working of our Circuits, requires separate arrangements, until the prosperity of the Mission shall make its incorporation practicable and desirable.

When any Circuit requests the appointment of a Home Missionary Minister, an engagement shall be entered into that his labours shall be devoted to a separate District or neighbourhood; and that such evangelical labours shall not be diverted from their proper

object, even by the supplying of vacancies occasioned by temporary absence or inability of other Ministers. A *change* of appointments with the other Ministers of the Circuit (in the forenoon, where practicable) is, however, desirable. Such a change will bring the Missionary Minister into desirable communion with the established congregations, beneficially exercise his preaching talents, and secure general sympathy. With this exception, it is manifestly important, in order to the concentration both of labour and responsibility, that the Minister so employed should give himself wholly to his *distinctive* and *proper* work.

Duties of a Home Missionary Minister.

He should daily visit from house to house in his District, until all have been visited, avoiding, however, the usual hours for meals, when the poor naturally object to be intruded upon by strangers. He should read the Scriptures and offer prayer, if practicable, in every case; and where this is not practicable, he should introduce as much of the Scriptures as possible in conversation, giving prominence to the great doctrines which concern the sinfulness of man, and his salvation from sin, and from its consequences, through the one perfect sacrifice of Christ, and by the grace of the Holy Spirit. He should urge the duties of prayer, reading the Scriptures, and habitual attendance on the public worship of Almighty God; earnestly inviting the people to any of our regular or occasional services in the neighbourhood. In these visitations suitable Tracts should, if possible, be distributed in every house. He should inculcate on parents the duty of training up their children religiously, and the importance of sending them to Week-day and Sunday Schools. He should faithfully, but prudently and affectionately, reprove sin, especially profaneness, intemperance, and Sabbath-breaking. Care should be taken to avoid all unnecessary controversy, or the introduction of subjects calculated to produce irritation; and to create, by a truly Christian spirit and demeanour, an affectionate sympathy and confidence between the Minister and those who are visited by him. Without such visitation from house to house, and this individual dealing with the people, there can be no reasonable hope of their being gathered into the Church of Christ.

The sick and dying imperatively demand the care of the Minister. He will often find affliction aggravated by deep poverty; and while it is not presumed that he will be able to relieve all such cases, he may, with advantage to his work, refer them to our various Benevolent Institutions; or, by application to the affluent, obtain means for their partial relief.

He should preach out of doors, at every suitable opportunity, in

a simple, earnest, and affectionate manner, especially in the thickly-populated and destitute parts of our towns, and also in villages not at present visited by our Ministers.

It would often be practicable, in addition to regular public worship, to obtain a room for a short Service in the evening; and sometimes two Services might be held, in different localities, on the same evening. These Services would be extemporised and informal, consisting, in the main, of that simple and faithful preaching of Christ crucified which, applied by the Holy Spirit, is the power of God unto salvation.

It is of the utmost importance that the Minister should not attempt to embrace too large a sphere of action, either as regards population or district. The effect of repeated visits will be to secure greater mutual sympathy, to make his efforts more impressive, to enable him to mark the effect upon the minds and lives of the people, and more certainly to secure the spiritual harvest.

In most places pious and earnest Members of Society will be ready to accompany the Minister, and to help him in various departments of his work; and such training will eminently fit them for extensive usefulness in the Church.

Missionary Minister's Journal and Reports.

Each Home Missionary Minister is to keep a Journal, specifying the number of visits paid and of religious services held by him; the number of persons who have been prevailed upon to attend the house of God; of those who have been gathered into fellowship with the Church; and of children obtained for our Schools. The Journal should note remarkable instances of ignorance and social and moral degradation; and the strictest accuracy must be observed, and great pains bestowed, in reporting the results of the work undertaken. The supporters of our Home Mission movement are entitled to a full and particular account of the proceedings of the Ministers employed as Home Missionaries; and such records will often exhibit plans of aggressive and successful labour. It must also be remembered that the friends of this work will look less at the mere number of visits and services than at the religious efficiency of each Mission.

Each Minister, thus employed, will be supplied with two Journals. One of these he will use for three months, at the expiration of which it must be sent to the Secretary for the inspection of the Committee. He will then use the other for three months, and at the end of each quarter the Journals will be interchanged.

The Missionary Minister must also furnish an annual Report to the Committee of Management, not later than the end of June.

This is to be an independent document, and not a copy of the Journal. This Report may include statements of great spiritual destitution, and instances of permanent religious good. A few well-selected cases, given in detail and with fulness, will best serve the purpose. The Report should also contain a summary of the work done (visits, services, etc.), as detailed in the Journal.

Each Home Missionary Minister is directed to forward to the General Secretary, for the information of the Committee, a copy of the Circuit Plan, and a quarterly statement of the number of full and accredited Church Members, and of persons on trial, in connexion with the place or places assigned to him as his Mission District.

Relation of Home Missionaries to their Superintendents.

The Superintendents under whose care such Ministers are placed will be responsible for their proper employment, as before defined, and must not allow them to be diverted from it. If, in any case, it be judged expedient to make an existing place of worship the centre of Missionary operations, such an arrangement must not interfere with the preceding Regulations. The Superintendent will be expected to peruse the Journal of the Missionary; to give the Committee of Management regular information of the spiritual and financial condition of the work; and to present annually to the District Synod a Report of the operation of these Missions.

Appointment of Ministers as Home Missionaries.

As a general rule, additional Ministers can only be appointed as Home Missionaries to neighbourhoods where local contributions are offered to defray part of the expense; and Grants will be made from the Home Mission and Contingent Fund towards the support of the Ministers, to supplement and encourage local liberality. For the present, when one-half or more than one-half of what may be required to meet the claims of a Minister, shall be provided, such offers will, all other things being equal, receive the first attention of the Committee in their recommendations to the Conference. It may be desirable, in some cases, *not* to make the appointment of a Minister absolutely dependent on such proportion; but these must be exceptions, admitted only upon proved great necessity and reasonable prospects of success. All applications for the appointment of Home Missionary Ministers are to be sanctioned by the Quarterly Meetings and by the District Synods.

Employment of Married Ministers in Home Mission Work.

1. As soon as practicable, the spheres of labour now occupied by Home Missionary Ministers shall be incorporated with the general work of Circuits; and in every case in which a married Minister

shall be appointed to a Circuit, in connexion with such an arrangement, the sum of £50 shall be granted by the Committee, if requested by the Circuit, towards furnishing the additional Minister's house.

2. If necessary, a Home Mission Grant may be made, for a period not exceeding three years, to the Circuit in which such an arrangement is effected, provided that the amount of Ministerial labour in the locality to which the Home Missionary Minister was originally appointed be not diminished.

3. Should any Circuit in which such an arrangement has been made require aid from the Home Mission and Contingent Fund beyond the period of three years, the amount of the Grant shall be determined in the usual way, and be charged among "Ordinary Deficiencies."

4. Whenever, in the judgment of the Committee, a Home Mission Station should have permanently the services of a married Minister, a house shall be provided, either in the usual way by the Circuit to which the Station belongs, aided by the Committee's Grant, or, if the Mission is not connected with any Circuit, by the Committee only. In the latter case, however, the furniture shall remain the property of the Committee (who are hereby made responsible for its insurance), until, by a special agreement, it has been transferred to a duly constituted Circuit.

VII. REGULATIONS FOR THE EMPLOYMENT OF A DISTRICT MISSIONARY.

1. He shall act under the direction of the Chairman of the District, and with the concurrence of the Superintendents of Circuits where he may occasionally labour.

2. Should he work in places not included in any Circuit, he shall be directed in his operation by the Chairman of the District, in connexion with the District Home Mission Committee.

3. He shall not take the work of any Circuit Minister, except on special occasions, and then only with the written consent of the Chairman of the District, and on condition that a Circuit Minister shall supply for him.

4. He shall labour where he can be most serviceable in the evangelisation of the people; and especially in rural neighbourhoods where no organised Methodism now exists, and where, if the Mission work be successful, the places can be afterwards attached to adjacent Circuits.

5. He shall pay earnest attention to places where Romanising practices, infidelity, and immorality prevail, and in which there is no vigorous Evangelising Agency.

6. A Monthly Report shall be sent by the Missionary, through the Chairman of the District, to the General Secretary of the Home Mission Fund.

7. No District Missionary shall make Collections at the Services which he may conduct in the District, except for the benefit of the Mission, and with the consent of the District Home Mission Committee.

8. The Home Missionary Committee has authority to employ, in concert with the Superintendent of the Circuit, in addition to District Missionaries, Ministers, and Lay Agents for general Evangelistic work in different parts of the Connexion. All arrangements connected with the employment of such Evangelistic Agents shall for the present be left to the discretion of the Home Missionary Committee; and the Committee shall report to the next Conference as to the Regulations which they judge advisable in regard to the employment of such Agents (1881, p. 239; 1883, p. 211). See p. 268.

VIII. ARMY AND NAVY SUB-COMMITTEE.

1. This Sub-Committee, for counsel and direction relative to Wesleyan Methodists in the Army and Royal Navy, shall consist of the Officers of the Home Mission Fund and of the Wesleyan Missionary Society, with an equal number of the Members of the Home Mission Committee and of the Committee of the Wesleyan Missionary Society, and other Ministers and Laymen interested in Methodist work in the Army and Royal Navy, who shall be appointed by the Conference.¹ An Assistant-Secretary shall be appointed to this Sub-Committee, for the purpose of conducting correspondence, and advising generally on Naval and Military matters. The Minutes of such Sub-Committee shall be submitted to the Home Mission Committee, and to the Committee of the Wesleyan Missionary Society. See p. 441.

2. A Circular shall be sent to all Superintendent Ministers stationed in garrison towns, or where Depôt centres are established, informing them of the standing Regulations of the Army and Royal Navy, which require all troops, not on duty, to be paraded and marched every Sunday morning to the public religious services of their own denominations, and requesting those Ministers to take suitable measures for gathering into our Congregations and Societies such Officers, Non-commissioned Officers, and Soldiers as declare themselves Wesleyan Methodists, and those Children in Government Schools whose parents are Wesleyan Methodists.

3. Ministers appointed for the benefit of Wesleyan Methodists in the Army or Royal Navy, or both, and supported by the Home Mission Committee, shall conduct all special Parade Services.

¹ *Army and Navy and Foreign Mission Districts.*—See *Standing Orders*.

4. Generally, it is desirable that Ministers designated to Army work should be appointed to Circuits in the ordinary way, and that arrangements should be made between the Home Mission Committee and the Circuit authorities with reference to details of work and payment.

5. The Quarterly Meetings of Circuits to which Army Ministers are designated, shall, when such appointments are proposed, be invited to send Representatives to meet the Committee to arrange such details. In cases where more than one Circuit is concerned, the authorities of each Circuit shall be consulted.

6. The Army and Navy Sub-Committee shall have authority, from time to time, with the concurrence of the Home Mission Committee, to issue Circulars of information for the instruction of Army and Navy Ministers, but only in accordance with the Regulations of the Conference.

Army Capitation Payments.

Claims having been made by the Trustees of several of our Chapels for payment for seats occupied by British troops, application was made to the War Office on this account, it being considered that these payments constitute a fair charge on the authorities, who require the men to be marched to our Chapels; and Her Majesty's Government having been pleased, in meeting this claim, to offer the fullest recognition of Methodism in the Army by granting Capitation Allowances for Wesleyan soldiers, such as are now received from the Admiralty in various Circuits on behalf of Wesleyans in the Royal Navy, the Conference resolves to accept this offer, being convinced that there is no principle involved which makes this action inexpedient; and instructs the Committees concerned to take such steps in relation to the Grants that may be made as will secure fair remuneration to Trustees for pews allotted to Wesleyan soldiers in our Chapels, and, at the same time, the utmost efficiency of our work in the Army (1881, p. 239).

Relation of Army and Navy Ministers to Circuits.

1. The Ministers appointed to the London, Aldershot, Woolwich, Portsmouth (Pembroke Road), Devonport, Chatham, Gosport, and all Garrisons or Naval Stations with a minimum strength of Declared Wesleyans of 250, shall be definitely set apart to the Army and Navy work, and that their relation to the Circuit in which their work lies shall be regulated in accordance with the Standing Order of the Conference on the subject, viz. 27 (5), p. 318, *Min. Conf.* 1889:—

“Ministers who are appointed to Army and Navy work are not to be considered as Ministers of the Circuit where they may be

stationed, so as to be claimed for Circuit work, unless special arrangements be made in any case with the Army and Navy Sub-Committee. After their proper work has been efficiently done, they may give such help to the Circuit as they may be enabled to do, but only on arrangement in writing between the Superintendent of the Circuit and the Army and Navy Sub-Committee. Their personal conduct is to be under the cognisance of the Superintendent of the Circuit and the District Synod, with the before-mentioned conditions" (1890, p. 256).

2. Ministers appointed to these Stations shall be sustained directly by the Home Mission and Contingent Fund Committee (except where special arrangements already exist and are working satisfactorily), which shall receive all Capitation and other official payments made in their behalf, except such amounts as may be determined for seat-rents.

3. That in order to secure a succession in our Naval and Military appointments of Ministers experienced in our Army and Navy work, wherever Ministers are in part sustained by the Home Mission Committee, their invitation shall be arranged by the Army and Navy Sub-Committee, acting for the Home Mission Committee, in consultation with the Circuits.

4. That the Ministers appointed to officiate for Wesleyans in the Army and Royal Navy shall be so designated on the Circuit Plans.

5. Army and Navy Ministers are directed to attend the Weekly Meeting of the Ministers of the Circuit in which they may reside (1870, vol. xviii. p. 152).

6. That all stated appointments made for the Army and Navy work, such as Hospital and Prison Visitation, and Religious Instruction for the Young, shall appear on the Circuit Plans (1890, pp. 256, 257).

N.B.—In 1870 the Conference resolved: "That in all things connected with his military engagements, the Army and Navy Minister shall correspond with, and act under the direction of, the Army Committee; and in all other ecclesiastical matters he shall act in concert with the Superintendent and the other Ministers of the Circuit in our usual way, attending the Weekly Meeting of the Ministers of the Circuit in which he may reside (1870, vol. xviii. p. 152).

7. At the October Leaders' Meeting of the Society connected with the Chapel in which the soldiers and seamen worship, the work in the Army and Navy shall be specially considered; and the Meeting shall appoint one of its Members, or some other suitable person, to assist the Army Minister in visiting the barracks, and generally in seeking to attract our Methodist soldiers and seamen to the services of their own Church, and in winning them to Christ (1890, p. 257).

8. At the Quarterly Meeting, when the Annual Army and Navy

Returns are presented, the work of God among our soldiers and seamen shall be statedly considered.

9. That in all cases where the Capitation Payment, other than the amount paid for seat-rents, is assigned to the Circuit Funds, the Minister responsible for the Army and Navy work shall be proportionally relieved of other Circuit duties (1890, pp. 257, 258).

10. Wherever Capitation Payments are received on behalf of our Wesleyan soldiers and seamen, the Pastoral duties which are entailed thereby shall be strictly fulfilled, and every facility and encouragement given to the men, their wives and families, to become attached to the services of the Chapels in which, by these payments, they are now seat-holders (1889, p. 319).¹

IX. THE EMPLOYMENT OF LAY AGENTS.

General Basis.

1. That the time has arrived when it is desirable to employ Lay Agents on a larger scale, and in a more systematic way, than heretofore; and that our District Organisation affords special facilities which may be rendered available in framing a general Scheme for the employment of such Agents.

2. That, by the union of District central influence with Circuit enterprise and responsibility, a Plan may be devised which will meet the exigencies of the present time.

3. That, in any such Plan, it must be a governing principle that no interference can be allowed with the responsibility of the Superintendent Minister, or with the constitutional rights and authority of the Quarterly Meeting.

4. That, while it is not desirable for the General Home Mission Committee to have any responsibility in regard to the selection or support of Lay Agents employed according to any such Plan, that Committee should keep a *Register* of all such Agents, and in this way be able to facilitate the transfer of Agents from one District to another.

5. That such a Plan for the employment of Lay Agents shall not have any authority or any necessary application in cases where such Agents are entirely supported by funds obtained within the Circuit or Circuits immediately concerned (1879, p. 238).

General Outline of Plan for the Employment of Lay Agents.

In conformity with the foregoing Resolutions, the following Plan is submitted:—

1. (i.) The District Home Mission Committee shall approve only

¹ *Soldiers' and Sailors' Homes.*—See *Minutes, Standing Orders.*

such Lay Agents as may be recommended by the Quarterly Meeting of any Circuit.

(ii.) They shall superintend, in harmony with the Circuit Quarterly Meetings, or the Circuit Home Mission Committees, the transfer from Circuit to Circuit, within the District, of duly accredited Lay Agents.

(iii.) They may provide, if they think fit, Lay Agents to labour within the District in any sphere not now included in any Circuit or Home Mission Station.

(iv.) They shall determine, in conjunction with the Quarterly Meetings, or with Committees duly appointed by Quarterly Meetings, of the Circuits concerned, the limits of the sphere of labour of any Lay Agent ; and they shall require and receive a quarterly Report of his labours.

(v.) They shall receive applications from Circuits desiring to employ Lay Agents, and shall negotiate the amount which the Circuits shall respectively contribute towards the support of the Agents, and shall correspond with the Quarterly Meeting, or the Circuit Home Mission Committee, as to their selection, appointment, and duties.

(vi.) It shall be the duty of the Secretary of each District Home Mission Committee to send to the General Secretary of Home Missions the names of all Agents approved by such Committee, and to communicate with him if it be deemed desirable to transfer an Agent from one District to another.

(vii.) The District Home Mission Committee shall present to the May District Synod a Report of the work done within the District by the Lay Agents ; and, with a view to the complete representation of all Wesleyan Methodist Home Missionary agencies, of whatever kind, shall also transmit a Report, through the District Synod, to the Connexional Home Mission Committee, that it may furnish, in its Annual Report, a suitable summary of the work done in all the Districts.

2. No such Lay Agent shall be employed in any Circuit except on the Resolution of the Quarterly Meeting ; and every such Agent shall act under the immediate direction of a Committee appointed by the Quarterly Meeting. The Quarterly Meeting, or its Committee, shall have power to engage, remove, or dismiss him, giving due notice thereof to the District Home Mission Committee.

3. All Lay Agents shall be engaged subject to the following Regulations, the violation or neglect of which shall invalidate all claims to pecuniary help from the District :—

(i.) Every such Agent must have been recommended for employment as a Lay Agent, in the first instance, by the Quarterly Meeting or the Superintendent of the Circuit in which he was at the time a resident Member of Society.

(ii.) He must be approved by the District Home Mission Committee.

(iii.) No Lay Agent shall be engaged for more than one year at a time, subject to not less than one month's notice or salary in case of dismissal, the same notice being required should he wish to resign; and no Lay Agent shall remain at the same Mission Station for a longer period than four years.

(iv.) Every Lay Agent shall be required to keep a Journal, which shall be submitted to the Superintendent Minister, or, if he labour in any sphere not now included in any Circuit or Home Mission Station, to the Chairman of the District, at least once a month; he shall also furnish a Report of visits paid and services held to the Quarterly Meeting, or to the Committee appointed by it.

(v.) The means for the support of such Lay Agency shall not be derived from the Ordinary Income of the Quarterly Meeting, but from Subscriptions and Collections contributed expressly for such Lay Agency.

4. While observing the foregoing Resolutions and Regulations, two or more Circuits may combine for the employment of one or more Lay Agents.

N.B.—In the foregoing Scheme, the term Lay Agents is intended to include both men and women, who must be Members of the Wesleyan Methodist Society.

METROPOLITAN LAY MISSION.

The Metropolitan Lay Mission is now incorporated in the London Wesleyan-Methodist Mission (1885, p. 232).

X. MISCELLANEOUS.

Assistance to Ministers who Retire for One Year.

Ministers who have travelled not more than twenty-one years, and have lost their health, may be allowed to retire for one year, and may, if in necessitous circumstances, receive in addition to the allowances payable from the Annuitant Society and Connexional Funds, a sum not exceeding £80, of which one-half shall be provided by the Home Mission and Contingent Fund, the other half being paid by the Auxiliary Fund. Each case shall be considered by a mixed Committee of seven members, who shall be appointed by the Conference, namely, the ex-President, three Ministers, and three Laymen. Should the Conference deem it indispensable, a second year's Grant may be allowed (1879, pp. 224-241).

Assistants to Senior Ministers.

In reference to Assistants granted to Ministers who have travelled forty years and upwards, the Conference has resolved—

Except in those cases in which the Conference shall decide that the whole of the expense shall be borne by the Home Mission and Contingent Fund, the support of any Assistant who may be appointed shall be provided for as follows : One-third by the Minister assisted, or by the Circuit to which he is appointed ; one-third by the Auxiliary Fund ; and one-third by the Home Mission and Contingent Fund. The expense shall be calculated so as to include the amount which it may be necessary to reserve to meet prospective charges on Connexional Funds (1893, pp. 318, 319). See p. 273 (5).

Furniture Grants to Supernumeraries and Widows.

Having regard to the arrangement made with the full concurrence of the Connexion in 1852 and 1853, by which the allowance made for Furniture should be paid to Ministers on their retirement from the Full Work of the Ministry, and to the Widows of such as die in the work without bringing any charge on the Worn-out Ministers' and Ministers' Widows' Fund ; the Conference is of opinion that, on grounds of fairness and equity, that arrangement should be continued, and confirmed (1879, pp. 241, 242).

FINANCIAL STATE OF CIRCUITS.

1. The Chairman of every District is directed to make particular inquiries, at each District Synod, into the financial state of all the Circuits in his District, and particularly into the average amount of their weekly and quarterly contributions, that he may be able, if called upon, to report the same to the Conference.

2. Before the deficiencies brought from any Circuit are paid at the District Synod, inquiry shall be made, whether such Circuit has complied with our Rules respecting contributions, by raising, *on the average*, one penny per week, and one shilling per quarter, for each Member. If it appear that the Rules have not been complied with, the payment of the deficiencies

of that Circuit shall be suspended, and the case reported to the Conference for their decision (1809, vol. iii. pp. 89, 90).

HOME AND FOREIGN MISSIONARY DEPUTATIONS.

All Ministers who are appointed as Deputations on behalf of our Home and Foreign Missions are responsible to the Conference for the fulfilment of their appointments (1888, p. 189).

DISTRICT SUSTENTATION FUNDS.

The position of Ministers in some of the poorer Circuits of the Connexion has often engaged the attention of generous Laymen; and in the year 1873 an important movement was begun to improve that position. It was proposed in the Meeting of the Committee of the Home Mission and Contingent Fund preceding the Conference of that year, that the Conference should be requested to recommend the formation in each District of a *District Sustentation Fund*, to be raised and administered by a Committee consisting chiefly of Lay gentlemen, being Members of the Society and living within the District:—"that the object of this Committee be to raise the minimum allowance in every Circuit to £150 per annum, with the customary addition of house-rent, taxes, etc.; that for the attainment of this object local Subscriptions be raised whereby to enable the Committee to supplement the income of Ministers until the minimum be obtained; and that, in order to encourage local effort, it shall be a fundamental rule of the Committee never to make a Grant beyond a moiety of the increase of the allowance to be paid, such other moiety being raised by the aid of the Circuit itself (1873, vol. xix. p. 253).

This subject was remitted by the Conference to the consideration of the several District Synods in Great Britain; and at the following Conference the plan was sanctioned, and it was strongly recommended that, wherever practicable, a District Sustentation Fund Committee should be appointed at the

Financial District Synod. It was further recommended "that the *surplus* of the Sustentation Fund in each District be remitted to the Financial Secretary of the Home Mission and Contingent Fund, it being understood that such surplus should be carried to a separate account, and appropriated to similar objects in other and more necessitous Districts" (1874, vol. xix. p. 516).

At the Conference of 1875, the principles on which the receipts from the *surplus* of District Sustentation Funds should be administered by the Home Mission Committee, were thus laid down:—

1. That the sum or sums so received shall not be used to relieve the Home Mission and Contingent Fund of obligations which exist under present Regulations, and that aid from such sum or sums shall not be confined to the claimant Circuits.

2. That such surplus receipts may be used in the encouragement of Sustentation Funds in the Districts, by making Grants to Committees of District Funds for their detailed Circuit distribution.

3. That the Grant given in all cases shall be dependent upon there being a Sustentation Fund in the District, and upon the sum voted being met by at least an equal amount (1875, vol. xix. p. 683).

The Conference of that year also adopted the following Resolution:—

The Conference directs that when in any District a Sustentation Fund is formed under the Connexional Regulations, the Treasurer shall be a Member of Society, shall be elected by the District Synod, and shall be, *ex officio*, a Member of that Synod during the transaction of Financial and Statistical Affairs (1875, vol. xix. pp. 716, 717).

The movement thus generously commenced and sustained has been productive of great good. The number of Circuits paying less than the proposed minimum of *eighty pounds* to each unmarried Minister, and *one hundred and fifty pounds* a year to each married Minister, has been greatly reduced.

CHAPTER III

WESLEYAN SEAMEN'S MISSION—LAY MISSIONS—MISSIONS IN OLD CHAPELS—MISSIONS IN LARGE TOWNS—LONDON MISSION—LONDON MISSION BANDS—METHODIST AGGRESSION IN LONDON—MANCHESTER MISSION, AND OTHER MISSIONS—LAY AGENTS IN CIRCUITS.

IN the year 1845 a Minister was appointed to the Thames Mission, established in connexion with the Spitalfields Circuit. That Mission has been continued, and its organisation, from time to time, improved. At the Conference of 1869 it was recognised as the Wesleyan Seamen's Mission, and a Committee, consisting of Ministers and Laymen, was appointed to manage it. In the year 1878 it was brought into an intimate relation to the Home Mission Committee, the following Resolutions being adopted respecting it:—

The Seamen's Missionary is placed in relation to the Home Mission Committee in a similar position to that in which Home Missionary Ministers stand; and a special Report of the Mission shall be periodically presented to the Home Mission Committee, and an annual Report, through the District Synod, to the Conference.

The Finances of the Seamen's Mission, both as to receipts and expenditure, are placed under the general charge of a special Sub-Committee of the Home Mission Committee; which Sub-Committee shall include the Superintendent of the London (St. George's) Circuit, the Seamen's Missionary, the Stewards of the before-mentioned Circuit, the Local Treasurer of the Mission, and other persons practically conversant with Christian work among Sailors (1878, p. 217).

The Committee consists of the Officers of the Home Mission Committee; the Chairman of the First London District; the Sea-

men's Missionary; the Superintendent and the Stewards of the London (Poplar) Circuit; the Local Treasurer of the Mission; seven Laymen nominated by the Sub-Committee; and ten other persons elected by the Home Mission Committee (1896, pp. 270, 271).

LAY MISSIONS.

A general movement throughout the Connexion took place, which resulted in the formation of Lay Missions in the Metropolis and other great centres of population.

The Metropolitan Lay Mission was established in 1871, and a Committee was appointed by the Conference charged with its oversight. The Constitution and Rules of this Mission, as approved and adopted by the Conference of 1873, are to be found in the Minutes of that year.

The Manchester and Salford Lay Mission was specially recognised, and the Principles and Rules for its management were approved at the Conference of 1873 (1873, vol. xix. p. 198). In 1875 it was resolved that the Committee of Management should be appointed by the Financial District Synod of the Manchester District, and that the Lay Treasurers of the Mission should be Members of that District Synod during the transaction of Financial and General Affairs (1875, vol. xix. p. 713).

The Liverpool Methodist Lay Mission.—In a similar manner the Financial District Synod of the Liverpool District was authorised in 1878 to appoint the Committee of the *Liverpool Methodist Lay Mission*. A Minute adopted by the Conference of that year shows the importance the Conference attached to all these and similar Lay Missions:—

The Conference receives the Reports of the Metropolitan, the Manchester and Salford, and the Liverpool Methodist Lay Missions, and, recognising the great need that exists for Lay Mission work, and the special and pressing claims which London, Manchester, Liverpool, and other great towns have upon the entire country, commends these Missions to the liberal support of the whole Connexion (1878, p. 217).

The Conference of 1878 declared that the time has arrived when it is desirable to employ Lay Agents on a larger scale, and in a more systematic way, than heretofore ; and that our District organisation affords special facilities which may be rendered available in framing a general Scheme for the employment of such Agents (1878, p. 213). Such a Scheme was prepared and adopted by the Conference, and Lay Agents have since been extensively employed throughout the Connexion. For the Scheme, see pp. 283–285.

The Lay Missions in London, Manchester, Liverpool, and elsewhere have been incorporated with the great Missions which have since been established. When the London Mission was formed, the work of the *Metropolitan Lay Mission* was by the direction of the Conference incorporated with it, and its Rules were revised accordingly (1885, p. 232). When the Manchester Mission was formed, and commenced its successful operations in the Central Hall, Oldham Street, the Conference acceded to a proposal that the work hitherto carried on by the *Manchester and Salford Lay Mission* should be placed under the Manchester Mission (1877, p. 229). The establishment of these Missions, however, has not lessened, but largely increased the employment of Lay Agents.

MISSIONS IN OLD CHAPELS IN LARGE TOWNS.

For several years the attention of the Conference was called to the greatly decreasing congregations in many “Old Chapels in Large Towns.” Those sanctuaries were surrounded by populations for the most part destitute, degraded, and living in total neglect of public worship. A Committee was appointed to consider the subject, and on the presentation of its Report the opinion of the Conference was declared as follows:—

1. In respect of Chapels in which the congregations have greatly decreased, although surrounded by populations which are for the

most part destitute and degraded, the Conference is of opinion that the sale of such Chapels should be resorted to only in exceptional circumstances. The Public Services in such Chapels, especially on Sunday evenings, should be adapted to the requirements of the people, and that a large number of free seats, comfortable and easily accessible, should be provided; and more practical interest should be shown in the domestic and social well-being of the people in the neighbourhood of such Chapels.

The Minister appointed to take charge of any such Chapel shall concentrate his labours upon that particular Chapel, and such labours shall be supplemented by suitable and sufficient Lay Agency (1885, p. 265).

2. The Conference approves the recommendations of the Committee as to the means whereby Chapels now partially or almost entirely deserted may become successful Mission Chapels.

3. The Conference authorises the issue of the recommendations of the Committee for the practical consideration of Ministers and Trustees of Chapels where the congregations, though large, are decreasing year by year.

4. The Conference does not propose that all Chapels with declining congregations shall be worked as Mission Chapels, but directs that suitable means should be employed in every case to prevent further decay and secure recovery (1886, pp. 275, 276).

N.B.—For Abstract of the Report of the Committee, see *Minutes*, 1887, p. 361. See also p. 188.

MISSIONS IN LARGE TOWNS.

A growing conviction had taken possession of the mind of the Conference and of the Connexion, that the question was far larger than that of filling a number of partially or almost entirely deserted Chapels. It had become manifest that the work in the Metropolis and other great cities was of such a nature and magnitude that it could not be accomplished by means of Circuit organisation, and could only be met by Special Missions on a very large scale. That conviction resulted in what came to be known as "The Forward Movement," and in the establishment of Great Central Missions in London, Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, Leeds, Hull, Newcastle, Sunderland, Bolton, Edinburgh, and Glasgow.

LONDON WESLEYAN METHODIST MISSION.

The Conference of 1885 approved the following Scheme:—

I. The Movement shall be called "The London Wesleyan Methodist Mission."

II. Object of the Mission:—

To carry the Gospel to such regions of London, and especially of Central London, as are most spiritually destitute and degraded.

III. Finances:—

(A) 1. It is proposed to raise the sum of £50,000, which shall be applied, both as to principal and interest, wholly to the work in the most spiritually destitute parts of London. Subscriptions to this principal sum shall be payable either at once, or in instalments, extending over a period not exceeding five years.

2. In order to secure its appropriation to this object only, the Fund shall be vested in six Trustees (three Ministers and three Laymen). The Committee of the London Mission (see (E.) 1.) shall report to the Conference any vacancies in the Trust that may have occurred during the year, and when the number of Trustees shall have been reduced to four, the Committee shall nominate and the Conference appoint Ministers or Laymen, as may be required, to fill the vacancies.

3. As it is impossible to define the boundaries of "the most spiritually destitute parts of London," the Committee shall decide, as the cases arise, whether they are included within the scope of the Movement; provided that in all cases where the Trustees, or a majority of them, are of opinion that any proposed District is not so included, the Committee shall appoint a Sub-Committee, consisting of the Trustees and an equal number of the Committee, who shall finally decide.

(B) 1. An annual income shall be raised by Subscriptions, Donations, and Legacies; by Grants from the Home Mission and Contingent Fund, and from the Home Mission surpluses of the three London Districts; and, where possible, by Public Collections. These shall be appropriated either specifically (at the request of the donors) or generally for the purposes of the Mission. Out of this income Grants may be made, payable quarterly, for the support of Mission work not included in "the most spiritually destitute parts of London," but within the City and Metropolitan Police Area.

2. The financial year shall close on 31st March, and the accounts shall then be audited.

IV. Scope of the Mission :—

(A) Missions not worked by Circuits.

1. In order to facilitate the work of the Mission, and prevent friction, certain Districts, the spiritual needs of which cannot be provided for by the Circuits to which they belong, shall be detached from such Circuits, and constituted special ground for Home Mission work, the boundaries of such Mission Districts being carefully defined. In cases where all parties are agreed, the Committee shall have power to complete the necessary negotiations. In cases where all parties are not agreed, the course of procedure shall be in accordance with our established Rules.

2. Prosperous Suburban Circuits shall be invited to take under their care any such detached District or portion of a District as may be agreed upon with the Committee.

3. The Committee shall have power, with the consent of all parties interested, and on terms to be agreed upon, to take over Chapels or Mission Halls not efficiently worked by existing agencies. The boundaries of the Districts assigned to such Chapels or Mission Halls shall be carefully defined, and due regard had to any legal questions that might arise. In all cases, the Committee shall decide, subject to the proviso contained in (A) 3, whether such transfers come within the sphere of their special work.

4. The Committee shall have power to rent, purchase, or build Mission premises in the detached Mission Districts, care being taken to secure properly drawn agreements, and in the case of purchase or building, the due settlement of the estate. In building Mission premises, the Committee hope to receive assistance from the Metropolitan Chapel Building Fund, under its amended Rules.

5. Wherever the Committee may think it desirable, they shall have power to provide, in connexion with any Chapels or Mission Halls, additional premises to be used for the Social and Philanthropic work of the Mission.

6. The Committee shall have power to maintain, in whole or in part, suitable Ministerial and Lay Agents for Mission work in these Districts.

7. The Committee shall have power to negotiate for the restoration to Circuits, or incorporation with adjacent Circuits, of any detached Mission Districts in which Societies have been formed, and which can be efficiently worked by such Circuits.

(B) Missions in "the most spiritually destitute parts of London," worked by the Circuits in which they are situate.

1. The Committee may assist by means of annual Grants, or otherwise, any Missions (in such parts of London) which with such help may be efficiently worked by the Circuits to which they belong. In each case a Quarterly Report shall be presented to the Committee.

2. The Committee may also assist in the hire or erection of Mission premises in such Circuits.

3. It is not proposed, at present at least, to lay down any specific regulations under which such assistance shall be granted, as, in almost all the cases contemplated, the degree of poverty in the neighbourhood will be the main fact to be considered.

(c) Existing Chapels.

Inasmuch as several existing Chapels situate in the midst of "the most spiritually destitute parts of London" have small and diminishing congregations, and fail under the ordinary methods to attract the multitudes living around them, the Committee may assist the Trustees of any such Chapels as shall be thrown open for Mission Services, by undertaking some portion of the expense incident to such Services.

(d) Missions outside "the most spiritually destitute parts of London."

1. The Committee shall have power, from such portions of the annual income of the Fund as are not otherwise specifically appropriated, to make Grants towards the support of Lay Agents employed in Mission work within the City and Metropolitan Police Area.

2. The Committee may also aid in the extension of Mission work by voluntary agencies under Circuit control.

(e) Government.

1. The Committee of the London Wesleyan Methodist Mission shall consist of the President and the Secretary of the Conference; the Chairmen of the three London Districts; the Treasurers; the Secretaries; the Local Treasurers and Secretaries of Branches; the Secretaries of the Home Mission Fund; the Secretary of the Metropolitan Chapel Building Fund; the Ministers appointed to the work of the Mission; two Representatives from each Branch, and two from the Mission Band Union; with twenty-four Ministers, and such a number of Laymen as will equalise the number of Ministers and Laymen residing in the London Districts; and twelve Ministers and twelve Laymen residing in other than the London Districts. Women are also appointed as additional Members of the Committee. See 1898, pp. 296, 297.

2. The Committee, at its first Meeting after the Conference, shall appoint a Sub-Committee for each principal Mission under its control, which shall be the Executive Committee of such Mission.

3. No person who is a Class-leader in any Circuit shall be appointed a Class-leader in a Mission District without the consent of the Superintendent of the Circuit to which he belongs.

4. Great care shall be taken to avoid withdrawing persons already engaged in Christian work from the Circuits to which they belong. All Workers in Mission Districts who are Members of the Society in

any Circuit shall be strongly advised to retain their membership in such Circuits.

5. The number of Members in Society in any Mission District shall be reported separately to the District Synod and to the Conference (1885, pp. 228-231).

General Secretary of London Mission.

The Conference resolves that a Minister in the Full Work shall be set apart for the office of General Secretary (1889, p. 246).

Members and Income.

The number of Members at each place in the Mission, with the amounts received as Ordinary Income, shall be printed year by year in the *Agenda* of the Conference (1890, p. 262).

MISSION BANDS IN LONDON.

The following Scheme for the organisation of Mission Bands in London, prepared by the Committee and revised by the three London District Synods, in accordance with the direction of the Conference of 1888, was adopted; and the London Mission Committee was directed to form and inaugurate the Mission Band Union referred to:—

1. The Union shall be called "The London Wesleyan Mission Band Union."

2. The Council shall consist of a President, who shall be a Minister resident in one of the London Districts, who shall be elected for one year only at an Annual Meeting of the Union to be held at a date to be fixed by the Council, and shall not be eligible for immediate re-election; six Vice-Presidents, of whom three shall be the Chairmen of the three London Districts (unless one of them be elected President, in which case another Minister may be elected), and three shall be Laymen elected annually at the Meeting just named; two Representatives from each Band in the Union; with a Treasurer, a Secretary, and an Assistant-Secretary to be elected by the Council.

3. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Officers and twenty-four Members, eight from each of the three London Districts, to be elected by ballot at the Annual Meeting of the Council, to be held in the month of October.

4. Each Representative on the Council and on the Executive Committee must be a Member of the Wesleyan Methodist Society.

5. The Union shall not interfere in any way with Circuit arrangements, or with the constitution of any Mission Band.

6. The Union shall not undertake any work in any Circuit without the sanction of the Superintendent of that Circuit.

7. Where no Mission Band exists, Representatives of the Council shall, if the sanction of the Superintendent of the Circuit be given, attend a Meeting specially called for the purpose, in order to explain the advantages of a Mission Band, and to assist in the formation of such a Band.

8. Subject to the foregoing Regulations, the Council may organise Mission Band Conventions ; promote the establishment of Mission Bands ; hold open-air Services ; establish Bands of Music ; assist at Missions in weak Circuits ; conduct Missions at deserted Chapels ; make arrangements for Services and Meetings on Bank Holidays and special occasions ; undertake Temperance work of all kinds, in harmony with the Connexional Regulations relating to Temperance ; establish a Registry for Employers and Employees under carefully drawn up rules, and without undertaking any responsibility in respect of the persons entered upon the Register ; and place itself in communication with Mission Bands in the Provinces, so that Mission Band Workers coming to London may be welcomed and set to work at once.

9. None of these Rules and Regulations shall be altered except at the Annual Meeting, or at some other Meeting of the Council, of which fourteen days' notice must be given to every Member of the Council, the proposed change being stated in the Notice ; and such change, if provisionally adopted, shall be submitted for final sanction to the next Conference.

10. A Meeting of the Council can be called at any time by the Executive Committee, or upon requisition to the President signed by at least twenty-five Representatives, fourteen days' notice being given (1889, pp. 247-249).

LONDON MISSION BAND UNION.

See *Minutes*, 1889, pp. 247-249.

METHODIST AGGRESSION IN LONDON.

The Conference of 1896 appointed a Committee, consisting of Representatives of the three London Districts, to consider and report upon the whole subject of Methodist aggression in those parts of London where the population is rapidly increasing (1896, pp. 323, 324).

The following Conference received the Report, re-appointed the Committee, and resolved that the Committees should meet

together once during the year, or on some convenient date prior to the March Quarterly Meetings, for consultative purposes (1897, p. 337). The Conference received the Report and discharged the Committee (1898, p. 351).

MANCHESTER AND SALFORD MISSION.

Committee.—The Manchester District Synod is directed, at its Annual Meeting in May, from year to year to nominate a Committee of Management for appointment by the Conference, in harmony with the Scheme of Nomination of Mixed Committees approved by the Conference of 1881 (1885, p. 213).

For Committee, see 1898, pp. 297, 298.

Lay Treasurers and District Synod.—The Lay Treasurers of this Mission shall be Members of the Manchester District Synod when Financial and General Affairs are under consideration (1875, vol. xix. p. 713).

The Quarterly Meeting.—The Conference directs that the Quarterly Meeting of the Manchester (Oldham Street) Circuit, now comprising the whole of the Mission area, shall include the Trustees of all the Chapels and Mission Halls who are Members of Society, whether such Trustees are resident in the Circuit or not ; and the Conference further directs the said Quarterly Meeting to act in harmony with the Committee of the Mission (1895, p. 274).

BIRMINGHAM MISSION.

The Conference consents to the enlargement of the Committee . . . one-third of whom shall be Trustees of Connexional Property occupied by the Mission (1889, p. 250).

For Committee, see 1898, pp. 298, 299.

LIVERPOOL MISSION.

For Committee, see *Minutes*, 1898, p. 299.

LEEDS, HULL, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, AND SUNDERLAND MISSIONS.

For Committees, see *Minutes*, 1898, pp. 299–301.

EDINBURGH MISSION.

1. The Conference resolves that the Edinburgh Mission shall take a separate and independent position ; the Minister continuing to act, as heretofore, under the direction of the Chairman of the District and the District Home Mission Committee.

2. The Conference appoints a Committee of Management, to consist of the following persons, viz. :—

- (1) All those connected with the Mission who may be eligible for membership in the Quarterly Meeting.
- (2) The Stewards of the Edinburgh (Nicolson Square) Circuit.
- (3) The joint Treasurers of the Scotland District Home Mission Committee.
- (4) Two Laymen named by the Conference. With power to add to their number (1891, p. 284).

MISSIONS IN LARGE TOWNS.

In future, Connexional status shall be granted to Local Missions only on the recommendation of the Home Mission Committee (1896, p. 329).

LAY AGENTS IN CIRCUITS.

The following are the Regulations adopted at the Conference of 1898 in regard to Lay Agents in Circuits :—

1. All Lay Agents employed in our Circuits shall be Members of the Wesleyan Methodist Society, and shall be accredited as such by the Superintendents of the Circuits from which they come.

2. A Lay Agent, who is a fully accredited Local Preacher, having presented his Note of Removal and current Circuit Plan to the Superintendent of the Circuit in which he is to work as a Lay Agent, shall have his name placed at the foot of the list of Local Preachers on the Circuit Plan, unless the Local Preachers' Meeting, in exercise of the power given to it by the Conference (see *Minutes*, 1895, p. 436), shall decide to place his name in a higher position. The words "Hired Local Preacher," "Lay Agent," or otherwise, shall be added to his name on the Plan; and while employed as a Lay Agent in the Circuit he shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the Local Preachers' Meeting.

3. Any Lay Agent desiring to offer himself as a Candidate for the Ministry must be proposed in and approved by the Quarterly Meeting of the Circuit of which he is a Member, the direction concerning the residential qualification of Candidates for the Ministry being strictly observed.

4. If a Lay Agent is not a Local Preacher, his name shall appear on the Circuit Plan, but not among the names of the Preachers. He shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the Local Preachers' Meeting in the same manner as Exhorters are subjected to that jurisdiction by the provisions of our Discipline (1898, p. 360).

See *Employment of Lay Agents*, pp. 283-285.

CHAPTER IV

THE THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTION.

THE Theological Institution was established in the year 1834, after careful and anxious consultation. Its design is to promote the intellectual and spiritual improvement of accepted Candidates for the Ministry in the Wesleyan Methodist Church; and it is held to be very desirable that all persons who, having been approved by their respective Quarterly Meetings and District Synods, are accepted by the Conference, should enjoy the benefit of the training which it affords.

There are now four Branches of the Theological Institution, situated respectively at Richmond, Didsbury, Headingley, and Handsworth. The Richmond Branch is a Missionary Institution; the premises at Richmond having been purchased by the Missionary Committee out of the Funds raised in connexion with the celebration of the Jubilee of the Missionary Society.

N.B.—A proportion of Missionary Students are trained in the Home Branches of the Theological Institution (1885, p. 240). See pp. 89, 90.

Subjects of Study.—The subjects of study were stated in the following paragraphs, at the time of the formation of the Institution:—

The Plan of Tuition for Resident Students shall comprehend as many of the following subjects as, on a careful consideration of the previous attainments and probable opportunities of the several Students, may be deemed suitable and practicable, viz. :—

1. English Grammar, Composition, and Elocution; Geography

and History; and elementary instruction in the Mathematics, Natural Philosophy, and Chemistry, and in Logic and the Philosophy of the Mind.

2. Theology: including the Evidences, Doctrines, Duties, and Institutions of Christianity, and having particular reference to those views of the Christian system, in its application to experimental and practical religion, which are held by our Body to be conformable to the Holy Scriptures. This will also include the General Principles of Church Order and Government, connected with a distinct Exposition of our own established Discipline, and of the proper methods of administering it for the purity, edification, and preservation of our Societies; and a view of the nature and importance of the Pastoral Office and Care, with special reference to the duties and engagements of a Methodist Preacher.

3. The Elements of Biblical Criticism: the best methods of critically studying the Scriptures; the Rules and Principles to be observed in their interpretation; Hebrew, Greek, and Roman Antiquities; and the Outlines of Ecclesiastical History.

4. The most useful methods of direct preparation for the Pulpit; and general instructions for the composition and acceptable delivery of Sermons.

5. Such instruction in the Latin, Greek, and Hebrew languages, as may enable the Students to read and study the Sacred Scriptures in their original tongues, and prepare them for the successful pursuit of further Classical and Biblical knowledge, when they shall be called into Circuits or Missions. This branch of instruction may, however, be wholly omitted, at the discretion of the Officers of the Institution, if, on examining the Student, at his first admission, or subsequently, they shall deem it most expedient to confine his attention to the English and Theological Classes (1834, vol. vii. pp. 412, 413).

Revised Curriculum.—The Curriculum was reviewed by the Conference of 1880, and the following Resolutions were adopted:—

1. Whereas, according to the original plan of the Theological Institution, one of the cardinal subjects to be included in the system of instruction was defined to be “the General Principles of Church Order and Government, connected with a distinct Exposition of our own established Discipline, and of the proper methods of administering it for the purity, edification, and preservation of our Societies, and a view of the nature and importance of the Pastoral Office and Care, with special reference to the duties and engagements of a Methodist Preacher”: and whereas this subject has not hitherto been brought into sufficient prominence in

the Curriculum and Time-table of the different Branches of the Institution, in future the subject as above defined, especially so much of it as relates to the History, General Economy, and Discipline of Wesleyan Methodism, shall form a regular part of the system of instruction, and occupy a fixed place in the College Time-table ; and that in each Branch the House Governor and Tutors shall arrange upon whom the specific duties referred to shall be devolved.

2. Except as may be in accordance with the foregoing Resolution, no Tutorial duties shall be assigned to the House Governor.

3. Biblical Exegesis and Hermeneutics shall form a distinct and prominent part of the Curriculum in all the Branches ; and the Tutors in Hebrew and Greek Testament shall be charged with the responsibility of teaching them.

4. The Curriculum at all the Branches shall be arranged so as to meet the requirements of the preceding Resolutions.

5. The Governor and Tutors of each Branch shall prepare and present to the General Committee, at its first Meeting after Conference, the Time-table which they propose to adopt.

6. At the discretion of the Tutors, the Greek reading of any of the Students may be limited to the Greek Testament.

7. The Resolution of the General Committee of 5th July 1873 be reaffirmed, viz. : "That no Student shall be allowed to read for the London or any other University unless he has matriculated before the time of his entrance into the Institution, or unless, in the united judgment of the Governor and Tutors of that Branch of the Institution with which he is connected, he is able to pursue his University reading without prejudice to the Theological and general course of study prescribed by the Conference"; and further, that at the commencement of every Session each Student's relation to the University course shall be considered, in order to determine whether he shall be allowed to continue that course or not.

8. That a Report from the Tutors in each department be annually presented through the Local Executive Committees to the General Committee (1880, pp. 231, 232).

9. Full and special instruction on the subject of our Connexional principle shall be regularly given in our Theological Institution (1889, p. 288).

The Conference of 1885 made the following additions to the above Regulations :—

1. In all the Colleges instruction shall be regularly given on the subject of the history and working of Christian Missions, and also on the history of non-Christian religious systems.

2. All Missionary Students shall, as far as possible, have three

full years' training before entrance upon their work ; that, where practicable, they shall be designated at the end of their second year ; that the field of their future labours shall be kept in view in the instruction given them during the remainder of their residence ; and that for such Students, wherever possible, elementary instruction in Medicine and handicrafts shall be provided.

3. Having regard to the special requirements of Students who may be intended for the East, such Students, after the completion of the usual course, shall, as far as may be found practicable, be allowed to remain in the Institution an additional year, with a view to their instruction in subjects having direct reference to their intended work (1885, p. 240). See pp. 89, 90.

Governor of the Institution House.—The oversight of the Students is entrusted to a resident Minister at each Branch of the Institution, who is called the Governor of the Institution House, and who has to watch over the spiritual interests of the Students, and in particular to meet them in Class. It is also his duty to report on the moral and religious character, observance of College Rules, attention to studies, preaching ability, competence for our work, and health of each Student, at the Quarterly Meeting of the Local Discipline Committee of the Branch. These Reports are in due course reviewed by the General Discipline Committee of the Institution. On the Lord's day the Students are employed in preaching in neighbouring Circuits, or in evangelistic efforts, under the direction of the Governor, in the immediate vicinity of the respective Colleges. (For the Constitution and Functions of the Discipline Committees—Local and General, see Part II. Chapter V. pp. 91, 90.)

The Tutors.—The Theological and Literary training of the Students is confided to the Tutors in Systematic Theology ; Biblical Literature and Exegesis ; Classics and Mathematics ; Pastoral Theology and Church Organisation.

The Regulations of the Conference as to the time of residence in the Institution,—the admission to it of Candidates who may have been sent by the President into Circuits during the year,—and several other particulars,—are given in Part II.

Chapter V. of this work, under the head of the *Theological Training* of Candidates for the Ministry (see pp. 88-90).

General Administration.—The following Scheme for General Administration of the Theological Institution was adopted by the Conference of 1879, and slightly modified in 1881 :—

1. That a General Committee of the Theological Institution shall be annually appointed by the Conference, and that it shall meet quarterly in Birmingham, Leeds, Manchester, and London. For the Constitution of the General Committee, see *Constitution of Connexional Committees*, pp. 444-447.

2. That this Committee shall be charged with the maintenance and the management of the several Branches of the Institution, and that it shall have authority to administer all Funds available for these purposes.

3. That there shall be annually appointed by the Conference from this General Committee, to act as Sub-Committees thereof, Local Executive Committees, one for each Branch of the Institution. For the Constitution of Local Executive Committees, see p. 446.

4. That the Local Executive Committees shall report to the General Committee upon all matters affecting the maintenance, management, and efficiency of their respective Branches; that these Reports shall be presented at least quarterly, and oftener if the General Committee so determine; that each Quarterly Report shall include a statement of the quarter's expenditure in such form as the General Committee may direct; and that the fourth Quarterly Report in each year shall also include a similar statement of the expenditure for the year, and an estimate of expenditure for the year ensuing.

5. That the Ordinary Meetings of the General Committee shall be held quarterly, to receive and consider Reports from the Local Executive Committees, and to determine all questions thence or otherwise arising with reference to the maintenance, management, and efficiency of the several Branches, or of the Institution as a whole; that at its Meeting next before the assembling of the Conference in each year, it shall prepare a general Report upon the condition and efficiency of the Institution, and upon the state and requirements of the Fund; that this general Report shall include the annual Reports and estimates of the several Branches, together with the General Committee's estimate of expenditure for the ensuing year; and that this Report shall be submitted to the Conference.

N.B.—The Richmond Branch being a Missionary Institution, the Missionary Committee will continue to act as the Local Executive Committee of that Branch, and shall have, as now, the charge of

the maintenance and management of that Branch, subject, however, to the provisions of the Trust-Deed of the Richmond Branch, and to the instructions of the General Committee on all matters relating to the economical arrangements of the Institution.

6. Allowances to Students shall be paid only in cases of proved necessity, the amount not to exceed £10 per annum; and instead of the question which has hitherto appeared in the Schedule, a separate document shall be prepared and forwarded to each Candidate for the Ministry, to be filled up and signed by the parent or guardian of such Candidate, and countersigned by the Superintendent of the Circuit; and the necessity for an allowance shall be proved to the General Committee through the Governor of the Branch to which the Candidate is appointed as a Student.

7. That the accounts at the several Branches shall be uniformly kept according to instructions to be prepared by the General Committee.

8. That, subject to the General Committee, the same dietary table shall be adopted in all the Branches, and that the provision, while it is wholesome, nutritious, and sufficient, shall be plain.

9. That in all cases, where practicable, two Collections shall be made annually in each Chapel on behalf of the Funds of the Institution (1879, pp. 249-251).

The Conference of 1881 adopted the following Resolutions affecting *Contributions* to the Theological Institution:—

1. The Conference resolves that the Subscriptions of Missionaries to the Theological Institution shall be paid to the Treasurers of the Missionary Society for the support of the Richmond Branch.

2. The Conference resolves—

(a) That all Legacies and Contributions to any Branch of the Institution shall be acknowledged and published in the Annual Report.

(b) That the amount of such Legacies or Contributions shall be either at once expended for the benefit of the Branch interested, or invested for the same, subject, however, always to the direction of the General Committee.

(c) That in the case of the investment of such moneys, the capital sum, or any portion thereof, shall at any time be liable on account of expenditure, other than ordinary current expenditure, on behalf of the Branch concerned, and that the annual interest of the capital sums shall be appropriated for the benefit of the Branch, under the direction of the General Committee (1881, p. 252).

Payments to and by Students.—The Conference of 1881 also resolved to appoint a Finance Sub-Committee, which should

meet before each Quarterly Meeting of the General Committee, to consider the Reports of the Governors as to payments to and payments by Students, to examine the Quarterly Statements of the Local Treasurers, and generally to compare and watch the expenditure at the several Branches of the Institution (1881, p. 252 ; 1882, p. 266).

The Conference affirms the principle, which has from the beginning been recognised in the administration of the Institution, in regard to charges on account of Students, that such Students as have the means, or whose friends have the means, shall be expected to contribute, in whole or in part, according to their ability, towards the cost of their own maintenance and education, and directs the Committee to consider and adopt such methods as may be deemed best for carrying this Rule into effect (1881, p. 251). See p. 92.

Dietary.—Subject to the General Committee, the same dietary table shall be adopted in all the Branches, and the provision, while it is wholesome, nutritious, and sufficient, shall be plain (1879, p. 251).

Annual Collections.—The following Resolution respecting the Theological Institution was adopted by the Conference of 1881 :—

The Conference resolves that, wherever it is practicable, two Collections shall be made annually in each Chapel throughout the Connexion on behalf of the Funds of the Theological Institution, and that those Collections shall be made, if possible, on some Sunday in December (1881, p. 251).

CHAPTER V

THE WESLEYAN METHODIST BOOK-ROOM

IT is well known that the Book Establishment of Wesleyan Methodism was originated by the Rev. John Wesley, and that for many years he was its sole proprietor. At his death it passed to the Trustees appointed by him in a Deed bearing date October 5th, 1790, the profits to be applied to the carrying on of the work of God by Itinerant Preachers in connexion with the Conference, constituted according to the Deed of Declaration filed in Chancery in the year 1784.

The management of the Book Establishment is entrusted by the Conference to a Committee which is annually appointed. The *Book Committee*, which, as a rule, meets every month, consists of the President and the Secretary of the Conference, the ex-Presidents residing in the London and adjoining Districts, the Book Steward, the Editor, the Secretary of the Book Committee, the Secretary of the Tract Committee, the Tutors of the Richmond Branch of the Theological Institution, the Secretary of the Home Mission and Contingent Fund, the Secretary of the Fund for the Extension of Methodism, the Secretary of the Education Committee, the Secretary of the Sunday School Union, and twenty-five Ministers resident in the Metropolitan Postal and Police Area.

To the *Book Steward* belongs the internal management of the Book Establishment, and the chief direction of its pecuniary affairs.

The *Editor* is responsible for the doctrinal soundness, and the general correctness, of all publications issued by the Book-Room; and he is especially charged with the care of the

Wesleyan Methodist Magazine, and is required "to make it his constant and unwearied endeavour to make that periodical as instructive and interesting as possible."

When a MS. is offered to the Book Committee for publication, it is usual to submit it to a Readers' Committee, to give a Report of its character and suitability at a subsequent Meeting of the Committee. MSS. accepted by the Committee are carried through the Press under the care of the Editor. The Book Steward has power to accept and publish any work of which he approves, at the personal financial risk of authors; and to make suitable arrangements for the publication.

The Conference each year appoints a *Tract Committee*. This Committee is charged with the preparation and issuing of suitable Tracts, in order that the important work of Tract distribution may be efficiently carried on throughout the Connexion.

The disposal of the profits of the Book-Room is secured by the Trust-Deed to the Conference. They are applied in aid of several Funds connected with the Methodist Itinerancy in Great Britain and Ireland, and especially in support of aged Ministers and Ministers' Widows. These grants are to be paid out of the profits actually made during the Connexional year then ending, and not out of profits to be made, in part or wholly, during the year then ensuing.

Book Accounts.—Every Superintendent shall be required not only finally to settle his Book Account for the preceding year at each Conference, but regularly to remit the money in his hands . . . to the Book Steward at Christmas, at Lady-day, and at Midsummer-day, and as much oftener as possible. The Book Committee are directed to use such means as they may find expedient for the full and impartial execution of this Rule (1821, vol. v. p. 248; 1894, p. 213).

Minutes of Conference.—Each Minister and Preacher on Trial shall pay one shilling for a copy of the Minutes for his personal use. Supernumerary Ministers are not included in the arrangement (1890, p. 205).

CHAPTER VI

ARRANGEMENTS AFFECTING THE ERECTION, ENLARGEMENT, ALTERATION, AND SALE OF CHAPELS, AND OTHER TRUST PROPERTY, AND THE RELIEF OF EMBARRASSED TRUSTS.

CHAPEL AFFAIRS.

IN the year 1866, a "Compendium of Regulations respecting Wesleyan Methodist Trust Property," having been carefully revised by several Committees, was adopted by the Conference. Since that year this Compendium has been modified by Regulations which from time to time have been adopted by the Conference, and which are embodied in the following summary :—

I. CHAPEL COMMITTEE.

1. The Chapel Committee shall consist of—

(i.) *Ex-officio* Members,—namely, the President and Secretary of the Conference; the ex-President; the Treasurers and Secretary of the Fund; the Treasurers and Secretary of the Metropolitan Chapel Building Fund; the General Secretary of the Home Mission and Contingent Fund; and a Member of the Board of Trustees for Chapel Purposes; with—

(ii.) Twenty-six Ministers and twenty-seven Laymen, who shall be recommended by the Chapel Committee for nomination, chiefly from among Members resident in the Manchester, Bolton, and adjacent Districts.

2. The Conference refers to this Committee the administration of its Regulations relating to all existing and proposed Chapels, Schools, and other Property held, or to be held, in Trust for the Connexion in Great Britain, except Property placed under any other Committee appointed by the Conference.

3. This Committee shall determine on all erections, enlargements, purchases, and sales of Trust Property, and on the erection of Organs; shall dispose of all Loans and Grants; and, when requested, may afford advice on difficult cases.

4. The Committee shall meet once a month, usually on the first Wednesday; and oftener, if necessary.

5. All communications intended for the Committee must reach the Secretary not later than the Saturday preceding the day of the usual Monthly Meeting.

6. A general Report of the proceedings of the Committee shall be annually forwarded for the consideration of the Conference.

7. The Chapel Committee has a claim on the Superintendent for all necessary information respecting Chapel Affairs within his Circuit; and the functions of the Chapel Committee being administrative, not disciplinary, it is at liberty to receive and reply to all legitimate communications, while, as the general rule, its official correspondence and action should be carried on through the duly constituted Circuit authorities (*Journal*, 1868; *Minutes*, 1877, vol. xx. p. 514).

II. CHAPEL FUND.

1. The supplies for the General Chapel Fund shall be raised—

By Private Subscriptions;

By Public Collections to be made yearly in every Chapel;

By Donations and Legacies;

By Annual Subscriptions to be requested from the Trust Fund of each Chapel.

The following Resolution was adopted by the Conference of 1895:—

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE FUND.

In view of the great saving of cost to Trustees resulting from the provisions of the Trustees' Appointment Act, 1891, and of the additional expense for administration brought upon the Chapel Fund in consequence, the Conference urges all Trustees of our Chapels to subscribe annually to the Fund, and suggests that inquiry should be made whether in some cases existing Annual Subscriptions might not be increased. The Conference expresses its judgment that the Committee cannot justly be expected to assist with oversight and advice non-subscribing Trusts, or Trusts whose Subscriptions are unworthy of their resources (1895, p. 250).

2. The amount of Subscriptions and Collections received for this Fund, in each Circuit, shall be reported by the Superintendent at the May District Synod, and where any considerable deficiency shall appear, the Chairman shall make strict inquiry into the cause.

3. The Income of the Fund shall, after defraying expenses, be applied, by the Chapel Committee, in Grants towards the relief of

Chapels, and either in Grants or Loans in aid of new Chapels, in such proportions as the Committee shall from time to time deem expedient.

4. In addition to the Fund thus raised annually, the sum appropriated to Chapel Relief and Extension, from the Connexional Relief and Extension Fund raised in 1853, and placed at the disposal of the Committee, shall be applied in the way of LOAN WITHOUT INTEREST. One-fourth of this sum may be lent in aid of new Chapels, and a larger proportion if the Conference shall judge it expedient.

See Regulations under the heads of "Aid to Existing Chapels" and "Aid to Proposed Chapels" (paragraphs x. and xi.).

III. ERECTIONS, ENLARGEMENTS, AND PURCHASES.

I. CONSENT OF SUPERINTENDENT.

The consent of the Superintendent shall be necessary to every erection, enlargement, alteration, or purchase.

II. CONSENT OF QUARTERLY MEETING.

No Chapel, School, or Dwelling-house shall be erected, enlarged, or purchased, without the previous consent of the Quarterly Meeting of the Circuit.

III. CONSENT OF DISTRICT SYNOD.

1. Every ordinary application for permission to erect, enlarge, or purchase a Chapel, School, or Dwelling-house, or to introduce an Organ into a Chapel, or for the purchase or sale of any Trust Property, must be presented to the District Synod on a proper Schedule, signed by the Superintendent and at least three of the acting or proposed Trustees. The approbation of the Synod must be obtained before any such case can be sanctioned by the Chapel Committee.

2. A District Chapel Committee shall be appointed yearly at the September Meeting of the District Synod, and shall consist of the Chairman and Financial Secretary of the District, two other Ministers and four Laymen; one of the Ministers to be Chapel Secretary for the District. One Lay Member shall retire annually by rotation. The Lay Members shall be Members of the District Synod.

3. *Cases of Urgency.*—In any case of urgency relating to the erection, enlargement, purchase, or sale of any Chapel, School, or other Trust Property, where it would be seriously detrimental to defer the consideration of the case till the Meeting of the May or the September District Synod, the District Chapel Committee may consider such case; and, on receiving from that Committee a

Schedule properly filled up and signed, the Chapel Committee is authorised to deal with the case as though it had passed the District Synod. All such cases, however, with the circumstances which rendered this mode of procedure necessary, must be reported to the ensuing District Synod by the Chairman or Secretary of the Committee. Any expenses incurred by Committees for such purposes must be defrayed by the parties on whose behalf the Meetings are held.

4. In future, all Chapel Building cases that have not been before the District Chapel Committee previous to the Meeting of the May District Synod shall stand over to the next Meeting of the District Chapel Committee, and be forwarded thence to the General Chapel Committee, except in cases of great emergency or of special importance (1893, p. 320).

5. No case shall be approved by a District Synod or District Chapel Committee, except in conformity with the Regulations of the Conference.

IV. CONSENT OF CHAPEL COMMITTEE.

1. The obligation to obtain the sanction of the Chapel Committee extends to all cases of erection, purchase, or enlargement, whether debt be incurred or not, and also to cases of alteration in which it is proposed to incur debt.

Definition of Enlargement of Chapels, Schools, or other Trust Property, and Recommendations respecting same.

The Conference declares that, not only every addition to the Area of a Chapel, but the erection of a Gallery, or of any adjoining room, shall, as heretofore, be considered an Enlargement within the meaning of the Rule No. III. Further, the Conference recommends Trustees to confer with the Chapel Committee before commencing important alterations of their Trust premises, though they may not, in the first instance, intend to incur debt (1872, vol. xviii. p. 624).

2. The Committee shall be satisfied, before giving their sanction to any case, that all land required for the purpose is, or will be, legally secured for the intended object. Drafts of all Deeds shall be forwarded to the Committee for examination.

3. Subject to the provisions hereinafter mentioned, no Chapel or other Property shall be erected, purchased, or enlarged, unless the Committee is satisfied, either that the entire outlay will be defrayed within twelve months after the opening, or that at least three-fourths of such outlay will be defrayed within such period of twelve months, and the remainder within a definite time to be agreed upon with the Committee.

(1) In the case, however, of the erection, purchase, or acquisition, by Trustees, of Property (other than Chapels or Schools) yielding

a fixed revenue, and which can be shown to be a permanent advantage to the Trust, the Committee shall have power, at its discretion, to relax the preceding Rule.

(2) In the case of an enlargement or alteration of a Chapel already free from debt, or of a Chapel the income of which is large in proportion to the debt, the amount of temporary debt to be allowed on such enlargement or alteration may be fixed with a due regard to the ability of the Trust to discharge it out of surplus income within a time to be agreed upon with the Committee.

(3) The Conference directs that any enlargement of a School-room used as a Day School, and not connected with a Chapel Trust Estate, the income of which may, in the united judgment of the Education Committee and the Chapel Committee, be available and sufficient for the payment of interest as well as of any debt allowed, shall be subject to the Regulations which apply to the Enlargement of Chapels (1879, p. 214).

(4) In any case in which money is lent to Trustees to be repaid without interest, and an adequate guarantee is given that no interest shall be charged for such money during a period of time to be specified, the amount of interest that would have been payable at £5 per cent., if the sum so lent had been subject to interest, may be taken into consideration in estimating the amount of debt which may be allowed to remain for a time on the Trust.

(5) In the case of money given on annuity, the value of the annuity shall be estimated as a debt, or deduction, equal to the sum for which a Government annuity of the same amount, for a person of the same age, may be purchased.

(6) Any sum which Trustees of any other Chapel may engage to vote out of their surplus Trust income, year by year, for a definite time, in aid of a new Chapel, may be estimated as equivalent to a present subscription, if it is to be paid within four years; but if it is to be paid during a longer term, then as equivalent to a subscription not exceeding its present money value.

(7) If any Trust Property be subject to ground-rent, or other incumbrance, the capitalised value thereof shall be estimated as part of the outlay.

(8) Any School-room connected with a Chapel Trust Estate, the income of which may be available for the payment of interest, shall be subject to the Regulations which apply to the Erection and Enlargement of Chapels.

(9) No other School-room shall be erected, purchased, or enlarged, unless the Committee is satisfied that the entire outlay will be defrayed within twelve months after the opening or reopening of such School-room.

4. Superintendents of Circuits, and promoters of Day Schools, are to communicate, first, with the Education Committee, according

to its Rules ; and, secondly, with the Chapel Committee, in accordance with the preceding Rules.

N.B.—(i.) The twelve months mentioned in the preceding Regulations shall be considered as ending at the May District Synod next following the expiration of that period.

(ii.) The preceding Regulations do not apply to the purchase of sites, when by such purchase no debt is brought upon any existing Trust Estate.

5. The Committee may require that plans and estimates of any Chapel, School, or House proposed to be built, or enlarged, shall be laid before it ; and if aid toward any Chapel be solicited, the Committee may consult an architect, if they deem it necessary.

6. When it is proposed to deviate from the arrangements sanctioned by the Committee, so as to increase the debt beyond the sum allowed, the proposed departure from the original plans, or terms, shall be fully stated in a Schedule provided for the purpose, and the consent of the Committee obtained.

7. A copy of the conditions on which the Committee may sanction any erection, purchase, enlargement, or alteration, shall be sent to the Trustees for insertion in their Trust Book.

8. Superintendents are directed, in every case, to give all the particulars requested in the Schedules issued by the Committee.

9. *Organs.*—Every application for permission to introduce an Organ into a Chapel shall be made, on the Schedule provided for the purpose, to the District Synod, or District Chapel Committee ; and if it obtain their approval, shall then be submitted to the Chapel Committee. The entire cost of an Organ shall be defrayed at or before the opening.

10. In all cases of erection, alteration, enlargement, purchase, or acquisition of Trust Property, the following directions shall apply :—

(1) The Committee shall, from time to time, call for proof of the fulfilment of the prescribed conditions.

(2) All violations of rule shall be reported by the Secretary to the respective District Synods, and to the Conference.

(3) When a Superintendent, on entering a Circuit, shall find the building or enlargement of a Chapel, School, or Dwelling-house commenced, or about to be commenced, without the consent of the Chapel Committee, he shall forthwith give to it all the information in his power respecting it (1866, vol. xvi. p. 566).

IV. INVESTIGATION BY DISTRICT SYNODS.

1. Chairmen of Districts are required to make a full examination, in the May District Synods, of the Returns relating to every new Chapel, School, House, or Organ, and all Enlargements and Purchases ;

and District Chapel Secretaries are required to forward immediately to the Chapel Committee all Minutes and Schedules relating to such cases.

2. Chairmen of Districts are also required to examine into all cases specially remitted to them, on account of the Trustees having failed, in former years, to observe the prescribed conditions, and cause a record of the particulars to be made in the District Minutes. In order to give effect to this Regulation, the District Minutes relating to such cases shall be read at the September District Synods, that Superintendents may be prepared to produce, at the ensuing May District Synods, Schedules duly filled up, showing the actual state of such Trusts.

3. The attention of District Synods is also directed to the following particulars :—

(1) All Chapels, previously to their being opened, shall be duly registered as Places of Public Worship, and the Certificate of such registration shall be publicly read at the Opening Service.

(2) Before the occupation, for Connexional purposes, of any Property affected by our Rules, Superintendents shall apply for the consent of the Chapel Committee.

(3) Applications for pecuniary assistance towards Chapels or Schools shall not be made beyond the limits of the Circuits in which such Chapels or Schools are, or are intended to be erected, unless such applications shall have been expressly sanctioned by the Conference.

(4) Trustees violating any of our Rules relating to Chapel affairs shall not receive assistance from the Chapel Fund, unless the Conference, upon a representation of the case by the Chapel Committee, shall authorise such assistance.

Irregular Cases.

The Conference directs the Chapel Committee to send the particulars of all Irregular Chapel Cases to the several District Synods, so that inquiry may be made from time to time, until it shall appear that the conditions of erection or enlargement have been complied with. The Conference further directs the Chapel Committee to call the special attention of the District Synods to those cases in which the proportion of debt is excessively heavy, or the proceedings wholly irregular, that the judgment of the District Synods in these cases may be communicated to the Trustees through the Superintendents (1890, p. 234).

V. DEEDS.

1. All sites acquired for new Chapels shall, whenever practicable, be settled upon the Trusts of the Chapel Model Deed, sanctioned by the Conference in 1832. The same applies to sites

acquired for Schools, whether intended for Day Schools or Sunday Schools. It is not now expedient to make use of the School Model Deeds in such cases.

2. Superintendent Ministers shall take immediate steps to secure the due settlement of Chapels and Schools already built, if not yet legally settled.

3. Appointments of new Trustees shall be duly made, as prescribed by the respective Trust-Deeds.

N.B.—(1) All Deeds creating charitable Trusts not exempt under sec. 7 (ii) of the Mortmain and Charitable Uses Act, 1888, must be executed by the conveying parties in the presence of two witnesses, and be enrolled in Chancery within six months after the land has been conveyed. Additional land acquired for the same objects must be settled on the same Trusts, and the Deeds are subject to the same Regulations respecting attestation and enrolment.—*Resolution as to Enrolment of Deeds*, see below.

(2) No alteration of existing Trusts can be made, except by the Charity Commissioners or the Court of Chancery.

Custody of Deeds.

1. Suitable provision shall be made in every Circuit for the safe custody of Trust-Deeds, and a proper record of them entered in a Book, to be preserved by the Superintendent Minister (1866, vol. xvi. p. 568).

2. The Conference recommends that a Fire-proof Safe shall be provided in each Circuit, and that all Deeds relating to Trust Property shall be carefully preserved therein.

3. The Conference directs that a Register of all Deeds and Documents relating to Trust Properties in the Circuit shall be preserved in a Book, and that the Deeds and Documents shall be compared with this Register annually by the Superintendent Minister and the Circuit Chapel Secretary, or by some other person to be appointed by the Annual United Trustees' Meeting for the purpose.

4. The names, addresses, and occupations of the Trustees of all our Trust Properties, as entered in the Circuit Book, are to be revised annually (1891, p. 259).

Enrolment of Deeds.

The Conference considering that, under the provisions of an Act of Parliament recently passed, it is not now legally necessary, in some cases, to enrol a Deed or other Instrument declaring the Trusts of land acquired for a charitable use, and having regard to the inconveniences which may arise should any such Instrument be lost, and insufficient evidence of its provisions be available, directs

that the consent of the Chapel Committee to any erection, purchase, or enlargement, involving the acquisition of land, shall only be given on receiving an engagement from the Superintendent and at least three of the Trustees, either that the Instrument declaring Trusts shall be enrolled in Chancery within six months of the date of its execution, or that it shall be sent to be sufficiently registered by the Chapel Committee; and the Committee is directed to make arrangements whereby such registration may be secured (1868, vol. xvii. p. 366).

Trustees' Appointment Acts.

The Conference directs the Chapel Committee to make and preserve in the offices of the Committee correct copies of all Memoranda of Choice and Appointment of new Trustees executed under the provisions of the Trustees' Appointment Acts. Superintendents of Circuits are directed to send to the Chapel Committee all Instruments affecting the Appointment of new Trustees and the vesting of Trust Property thereupon, in order that records of the same may be preserved. The Conference further directs that Drafts of Deeds renewing Trusts and of Memoranda of Choice and Appointment should be sent to the Chapel Secretary for examination and approval (1891, p. 259).

VI. MANAGEMENT OF TRUST PROPERTY.

1. Suitable Cash and Minute Books shall be provided by the Trustees of each Chapel or other Trust Property; and a Meeting shall be held, once in every year, at which the annual accounts of the Trust shall be audited. Minutes of Trustees' Meetings shall be taken and preserved.

2. Superintendents are required to examine, once a year, the accounts of each Trust within their respective Circuits. Chairmen of Districts shall institute particular inquiry, in the May District Synods, as to the observance of this direction.

3. A united Meeting of the Treasurers and Trustees of the several Trust Estates shall be annually held in every Circuit, on some day to be fixed at the December Quarterly Meeting; at which Trustees' Meeting an abstract of the several Treasurers' accounts shall be examined and entered in a Circuit Book, to be carefully kept by a Secretary appointed for the purpose at the same Quarterly Meeting.

4. A Schedule, duly filled up from this Circuit Book, shall be forwarded every year, not later than the 10th of April, by each Superintendent, to the Secretary of the District Chapel Committee.

5. This Committee shall meet prior to, or in connexion with, the May District Synod, to examine the Schedules; and shall bring

before the District Synod any inquiries or suggestions arising out of such examination.

Contribution to Circuits.

Superintendents shall request Trustees of Chapels to vote to the Circuit Fund as much as can be afforded out of their Trust income.

Insurance.

1. The duty of insuring Trust Property is strongly urged upon all our Trustees (1866, vol. xvi. p. 568 ; 1898, p. 332).

2. The Conference commends the Wesleyan Methodist Trust Assurance Company—the profits of which are applied, first, to the Worn-out Ministers' and Ministers' Widows' Auxiliary Fund ; and, secondly, for the benefit of the Chapel Trusts insuring with the Company—to the hearty support of the Ministers and Trustees of the Connexion (1872, vol. xviii. p. 649).

Annuities.

Trustees are advised not to grant Annuities, except on very easy terms ; and consultation with the Chapel Committee is recommended.

VII. USE OF WESLEYAN METHODIST TRUST PROPERTY FOR PURPOSES NOT CONTEMPLATED IN THE TRUST-DEEDS.

Trust Properties and Amusements.

Having regard to the growing practice of using our Trust Properties for amusements and other purposes not contemplated in the formation of the several Trusts, the Conference calls the attention of Ministers and Trustees to the terms of their several Trust-Deeds. The Conference reminds the Superintendents of Circuits that our Trust Properties can only legally be used for such purposes as are in accordance with the provisions of the Deeds. Such purposes are declared by the Chapel Model Deed to be "For Places of Religious Worship and for Public and other Meetings and Services held according to the General Rules and Usages of the People called Methodists, as they appear in and by the Annual Minutes of the Conference from time to time published" (1880, p. 191).

Trust Properties and Political Meetings.

Having regard to the fact that a desire has been expressed in some places to use our Trust Property for the purpose of Political Meetings, the Conference declares that such uses are not contemplated by the provisions of any of our Trust-Deeds ; and it reminds Superintendents and Trustees that our Trust Properties can only be lawfully used for the purposes provided for in the Trust-Deeds. The

Conference further expresses the conviction that any such use of the premises as that suggested would be detrimental to the best interests of our Societies, by endangering their peace and unity (1885, p. 185).

Trust Properties and Parish Councils.

The question having arisen as to the desirability of allowing the use of our Trust Property for Meetings of Parish Councils, and in view of the importance of uniform action in this matter, the Conference declares its opinion that our Schools, Halls, and Trust Property, other than the Buildings registered and actually in use for Public Worship, may be Let by the Trustees for Meetings of Parish Councils in those places in which no other suitable accommodation can be found, provided that the use of the Property for our own Church purposes be not interfered with, and that a suitable Rent be paid to the Trustees (1894, p. 323).

Trust Properties and Friendly Societies.

The Conference approves of Friendly Societies being encouraged to hold their Meetings in Wesleyan Methodist Schools or Vestries, especially where there is no other building available for the purpose; care being taken to avoid any action which would render the Trust Property liable to rates (1896, p. 333).

Trust Properties and Unauthenticated Strangers.

Considering the many abuses to which the Connexion is continually exposed by applications from unauthenticated strangers from abroad to use our Trust Property for financial ends, the Conference appoints a Committee to consider the credentials of all such (1898, p. 358).

VIII. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

1. No lawsuit relating to Chapels, Schools, or other Trust Property shall be commenced without the consent of the Chapel Committee, except by the direction of the Conference. And unless such consent or direction be first obtained, the parties proceeding shall be alone responsible for all expenses incurred by such lawsuit (1866, vol. xvi. p. 569).

2. *Applications to the Charity Commissioners.*—The Conference repeats the Resolution of 1866 on this subject, modified as follows:—"No application shall be made to the Charity Commissioners by any of our Ministers or Trustees for any Order affecting Wesleyan Methodist Trust Property without having first obtained the advice of the Chapel Committee thereupon; and the Conference directs that all drafts of proposed Orders of the Charity Commissioners shall be submitted to the Chapel Committee for approval before

they are accepted by the Trustees. The Conference empowers the President for the time being to affix his signature to any petition or application to the Charity Commissioners for the exercise of their powers in all cases in which such signature may be necessary, provided that the application be first certified and recommended to him by the Chapel Committee" (1886, pp. 224, 225).

IX. SALES.

1. Every application for the permission of Conference for the sale of a Chapel, or other Trust Property, shall be approved by the District Synod, or District Chapel Committee, and by the Chapel Committee, who shall report to the Conference.

2. If the sale of a Chapel or other Trust Property should be deemed expedient in the interval between one Conference and another, the President for the time being is authorised, on behalf of the Conference, to affix his signature to the document giving permission to sell, provided that each case be first certified to him as approved by the Chapel Committee.

3. All sales of Trust Property which shall be duly sanctioned shall be entered in the Journal of the Conference.

4. Regulations as to sale of Chapels to apply also to the transfer of Schools to School Boards.

The Conference directs that the Regulations applicable to the sale of Wesleyan Methodist Trust Property shall also apply to the transfer of Wesleyan Methodist School premises to School Boards under the 23d section of the Elementary Education Act, 1870, in any cases in which it may be found that the consent of the Conference is necessary (1873, vol. xix. p. 154).

5. *Sale of Village Chapels.*—The Conference rescinds the Resolution adopted in 1887 (*Minutes*, pp. 216, 217), "On no account shall Village Chapels or other Trust Property be sold or otherwise alienated from Methodist Purposes"; and instead resolves as follows:—"Before consent is given to the sale of any Village Chapel not to be superseded by a new erection, the opinion of the Home Mission Committee shall be obtained as to the desirability of retaining the property" (1888, p. 234).

X. AID TO EXISTING CHAPELS.

I. RELIEF BY LOANS WITHOUT INTEREST.

1. One-half of the amount of sanctioned debt which the Trustees of any Chapel, or number of Chapels united, propose to extinguish may be advanced as a Loan without interest; the other half being previously paid off by the applicants.

2. All Loans shall be repaid by equal half-yearly instalments ; such repayment to extend over a period to be agreed upon, but never exceeding ten years. The whole amount remaining unpaid to be immediately recoverable, in default of the due payment of any instalment.

3. Satisfactory security shall be given for the due repayment of the Loans, and for the fulfilment of the conditions which the Committee may require.

4. Applicants shall produce their Trust-Deeds, if required by the Committee.

5. Applicants shall engage to maintain a reasonable system of Seat-rents, to contribute annually from their Trust income to the Chapel Fund, and to appropriate the surplus proceeds of their Trust Property to the support and extension of the work of God in their Circuits, or in aid of Connexional Institutions.

Aid to Chapels without Seat-rents.

The Chapel Committee shall have liberty to assist by Loan without interest as well as by Grant, in the erection of Chapels in which no seat-rents are to be charged, and in the payment of debts on such Chapels ; provided that, after careful inquiry, the Committee is convinced that the special necessities of the locality in question render the letting of pews undesirable ; and provided further that it shall be proved to the satisfaction of the Committee that an income can be obtained from other sources sufficient to meet all the expenses of the Trust, to provide for an Annual Subscription to the Chapel Fund, and for such assistance to Circuit Funds and other objects as would have been given if seat-rents had been charged (1889, p. 234).

II. RELIEF BY GRANTS.

1. Applications for relief by Grants must be submitted to the May District Synods ; but cases of special exigency may be considered, if they pass the September District Synods. All such applications must be made upon the authorised Schedules. Any additional statement which Trustees may deem it necessary to lay before the Committee must be presented in writing.

2. *Alteration of Rules.*—Applications for Grants for relief of Chapel debts, if made on the proper Schedule, may, in urgent cases, be considered and determined by the Chapel Committee without the recommendation of the District Synod or the District Chapel Committee (1895, p. 249).

3. No application for relief shall be recommended by a District Synod unless the Trustees make Anniversary Collections in aid of their funds, or show sufficient cause to the contrary ; nor until they engage to contribute an Annual Subscription from their Trust

Estate to the Chapel Fund, the amount to be agreed upon with the Committee.

4. No case shall be considered by the Chapel Committee unless the Deeds be produced, if required.

5. In the case of any application for the relief of a Chapel, if any part of the Trust premises be occupied as a Sunday School, a reasonable rent must be paid to the Trustees.

6. In all cases of Grants towards the reduction of debts, the Chapel Committee shall see that securities to the whole amount of the sum liquidated be cancelled, and a record of them preserved by the Committee.

XI. AID TO PROPOSED CHAPELS.

The following are the Rules for the administration of the Erections Fund, instituted by the Conference in 1859, and of that portion of the Chapel Fund which may be available for new erections :—

1. Assistance shall be confined to Chapels respecting which it can be shown that special reasons exist for Connexional aid.

2. Such a proportion of the annual income of the Fund arising from collections and subscriptions, as the Committee may from time to time deem expedient, shall be employed in Grants or Loans to aid the building of Chapels, under such Regulations as the Committee shall deem proper.

3. One-fourth of the Loan Fund raised in 1853 may be appropriated, at the discretion of the Committee, in Loans towards new erections.

4. No case shall be considered eligible for assistance in which our established Regulations are not complied with, by securing at least three-fourths of the proposed outlay apart from any aid by the Committee. But the Committee may, if they see fit, in any very special case, make a small Grant towards securing that proportion.

5. *Schemes for Extension in Populous Localities.*—The Chapel Committee is directed to consider whether, in the event of a surplus arising from the working of the Fund for any given year without restricting the Ordinary Grants, such surplus might not be advantageously applied to the assistance of United Circuit or other special efforts to provide additional Chapel accommodation in large and growing provincial centres of population, where at present Methodism is inadequately represented (1893, p. 252).

6. In the case of Chapels costing less than £200, assistance shall be rendered only by way of Grant.

7. In all cases to which aid shall be promised, it shall be an indispensable condition that any temporary debt which may be

allowed to remain on the Chapel, shall be paid off within a definite time to be agreed upon with the Committee.

8. Trustees of Chapels assisted from this Fund shall subscribe annually out of their Trust income to the Chapel Fund.

9. The Conference directs that if in any case to which a Connexional Committee has paid a Grant or Loan towards the cost of erecting a Chapel, on condition that no debt shall be left except a Loan or Loans, repayable without interest, any other debt be contracted without the sanction of the Committee advancing the Loan, and of the General Chapel Committee, the particulars of such debt, and the circumstances which occasioned it, shall be reported to the ensuing Annual Synod of the District in which such Chapel is situated, and a record of the action taken thereon by the said District Synod shall be presented to the ensuing Conference (1874, vol. xix. p. 420).

Unnecessary Multiplication of Chapels.— See p. 342.

Applications for Pecuniary Assistance beyond limits of Circuit.— Applications for pecuniary assistance towards Chapels or Schools shall not be made beyond the limits of the Circuits in which such Chapels or Schools are, or are intended to be, erected, unless such applications shall have been expressly sanctioned by the Conference (1886, vol. xvi. p. 567).

XII. LOANS TO MINISTERS' HOUSES.

The Conference adopts the following scheme for Loans to Ministers' Houses :—

1. A sum not exceeding £4000 of the Loan Fund raised in 1853 may be appropriated at the discretion of the Committee, as a Fund for Loans without interest towards Ministers' Houses.

2. Aid by Loan shall be given only towards Houses erected or purchased with the sanction of the Chapel Committee, and legally settled in Trust to the satisfaction of the Committee.

3. Assistance shall be confined to cases in which satisfactory evidence is adduced that the acquisition of a Minister's House is desirable in the interests of the Circuit.

4. The amount to be advanced as a Loan shall in no case exceed one-half of the debt sanctioned by the Chapel Committee, and a sum equal to the Loan shall be raised by the applicants, and paid for the reduction of the debt.

5. All Loans shall be repaid by equal half-yearly instalments ; such repayments to extend over a period to be agreed upon, but never exceeding ten years. The whole amount remaining unpaid to be immediately recoverable in default of the due payment of any instalment.

6. Satisfactory security shall be given for the due repayment of the Loans, and for the fulfilment of the conditions which the Committee may require.

7. Applicants shall engage to subscribe annually to the Chapel Fund, and to charge a rent sufficient to secure the repayment of the Committee's Loan, in addition to all other charges against the property (1884, p. 232).

Mortgages.

The Conference confirms the Minute made in 1830, viz. "That no Loans of money should be raised by the Trustees of any of our Chapels on mortgage of their Trust premises, unless the sum borrowed be equal to the entire debt remaining thereupon"; and further most earnestly advises, that no such Loan *on mortgage* shall be taken up at all, except in extreme cases; nor then without consulting with the Chapel Committee (1834, vol. vii. p. 405). See pp. 573, 574.

Organs.

Every application for permission to introduce an Organ into a Chapel shall be made, on the Schedule provided for the purpose, to the District Synod, or District Chapel Committee; and if it obtain their approval, shall then be submitted to the Chapel Committee. The entire cost of an Organ shall be defrayed at or before the opening (1866, vol. xvi. p. 566).

Returns of Accommodation.

As soon as possible after each National Census, complete Returns must be obtained as to the accommodation provided in all Wesleyan Methodist Chapels and Preaching Places in Great Britain, suitable Forms for the purpose being provided by the Chapel Committee (*Journal*, 1873; *Minutes*, 1877, vol. xx. p. 515).

Forms.

The Chapel Committee has prepared the following Forms for the Settlement in Trust of Property acquired for Wesleyan Methodist Trust purposes; for the Appointment of New Trustees, and the due Vesting in them of the Trust Property:—

1. Form of Conveyance of Freehold Ground for the purposes of a Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, etc., with Declaration of Trusts by reference to the Chapel Model Deed. This Form should also be used for Schools.

2. Forms of Conveyance of Freehold Ground for the purposes of Wesleyan Methodist Ministers' Dwelling-Houses, containing a suitable Declaration of Trusts.

3. Form of Agreement for Mission Chapels, defining the purposes for which the property is rented.

4. Directions for the Appointment of New Trustees, under the

provisions of the Model Deed for Wesleyan Methodist Chapels, and for Vesting the Trust Property thereupon.

These Directions include Form of Resolution appointing New Trustees, Form of Resignation and Form of Memorandum of Choice and Appointment in accordance with the Trustees' Appointment Acts 1850 to 1890.

5. Form of Deed reciting the Appointment of New Trustees under the provisions of the Model Deed for Wesleyan Methodist Chapels and Conveyance of the Trust Property. (*Note*.—Where the Memorandum of Choice and Appointment is duly executed this Deed is unnecessary.)

6. Form of Deed appointing New Trustees under section 10 of the Trustee Act, 1893, in cases where it is impossible to secure an Appointment at a Meeting.

7. Form of Appointment of New Trustees under section 10 of the Trustee Act, 1893, in harmony with the provisions of the Trustees' Appointment Act, 1890, applicable to Wesleyan Chapels not settled on the Trusts of the Chapel Model Deed.

8. Form of Appointment of New Trustees of Wesleyan Chapels under the power of appointment contained in the Foundation Deed, where such power does not require the Appointment to be made at a Meeting.

9. Form of Deed effectuating the Retirement of a Trustee under section 11 of the Trustee Act, 1893, and Vesting Declaration under section 12 (2) of that Act.

10. The Committee has also prepared other Forms applicable under certain circumstances not provided for above.

11. The Committee has further secured the preparation of suitable Forms adapted for use in Scotland, for the Legal Settlement of Wesleyan Methodist Trust Property, for the Appointment of New Trustees, and for the Vesting of the Trust Property (1887, pp. 359, 360).

Chapels to be furnished with provision for Kneeling.

We strongly recommend it to all our people to *kneel* at prayer; and we desire that all our pews may, as far as possible, be so formed as to admit of this in the easiest manner. We request that all our Chapels be furnished with hassocks, or with kneeling-boards, so that every excuse may be taken away from those who persist in the irreverent and unscriptural custom of sitting while at prayer.

We strongly urge on the congregations the propriety and importance of *standing* while they sing the praises of God. Let the original, simple, grave, and devotional style be carefully preserved; which, instead of drawing attention to the singing and the singers, is so admirably calculated to withdraw it from both, and to raise the soul to God only (1869, vol. xvii. p. 622).

CHAPTER VII

THE METROPOLITAN CHAPEL BUILDING FUND—THE FUND FOR THE EXTENSION OF METHODISM IN GREAT BRITAIN—THE NORTH WALES DISTRICT CHAPEL FUND—THE SOUTH WALES DISTRICT CHAPEL FUND—THE FUND FOR THE RELIEF AND EXTENSION OF METHODISM IN SCOTLAND.

THE *Metropolitan Chapel Building Fund* was established in the year 1861, and was formally recognised and sanctioned by the Conference of 1862. The Minute then adopted was as follows :—

The Conference, considering the lamentable deficiency of Chapel accommodation in the Metropolis, has heard with great satisfaction of the establishment of the Metropolitan Building Fund, and expresses its cordial approval of the Scheme ; with the understanding that every case of erection proposed shall, according to our existing Rules and Usages, pass through the Quarterly Meeting and District Synod, and receive the sanction of the Chapel Committee (1862, vol. xv. p. 323).

At the Conference of 1870, in compliance with a request of the Committee of this Fund, a Minister was set apart to the office of Secretary. This step was rendered advisable by the liberal offer of the late Sir Francis Lycett,—an offer which the Conference gratefully acknowledged and commended to the favourable regard of the Connexion,—to give £50,000, during the following seven years, if an equal amount were contributed by friends throughout the Connexion, and if ten Chapels, each seating *one thousand* persons, should be commenced in the Metropolis within ten years. The response to this offer, on the part of the Provinces, was in every respect satisfactory.

In the following year, the Conference adopted the subjoined Resolutions on the "Relation of the Metropolitan Chapel Building Committee to the Connexion, and to the Working of other Departments":—

1. That a Report of the proceedings of the Metropolitan Chapel Building Committee shall be annually presented . . . to the Conference.

2. That, in future, the Committee of this Fund shall be appointed by the Conference, and printed in its Minutes; the nomination of Officers and Lay Members being made by the Committee, as in the case of other Connexional Funds.

3. That, to maintain unity of action between the Committee of the General Chapel Fund and the Metropolitan Chapel Building Fund, one Minister and one Lay gentleman from each of those Committees be appointed yearly on the other Committee, in addition to the President and the Secretary of the Conference, who are, *ex officio*, Members of each Committee (1871, vol. xviii. p. 399).

Constitution of the Committee.—The Committee was appointed in 1881 in accordance with the Scheme for the Nomination of Connexional Mixed Committees, but in 1886 it was reconstituted and very much reduced in number. For the present constitution of the Committee, see p. 443.

Additional Regulations were adopted in the year 1872. The Minute is as follows:—"In accordance with a Suggestion of the Synods of the London Districts, the Conference repeats its earnest recommendation, that increased help be given to this Fund, not only by occasional Donations, but also by Annual Subscriptions and Collections in each Metropolitan Circuit. The Conference also adopts the proposal of these District Synods, that a Ministerial or Lay Secretary be appointed by the June Quarterly Meeting in each of the Metropolitan Circuits, with a view to secure more efficient organisation" (1872, vol. xviii. p. 628).

The Conference of 1875 passed the following Resolution:—

The Conference directs that Annual Collections on behalf of the Fund be made in all the Metropolitan Chapels on the Lord's day, and repeats its recommendation that further help be rendered by

Donations and Subscriptions, and also by an Annual Public Meeting in each of the Metropolitan Circuits; and also resolves that in the May Synods of the London Districts the interests of this Fund be considered when the Connexional Funds are under review (1875, vol. xix. pp. 679, 680).

Annual Collections.

The Conference directs that the last Sunday in January shall be the day for the Annual Collections to be made in all the Chapels within the area of the Fund (1886, p. 301).

Contributions from Chapel Trusts.

1. The Conference authorises the London District Synods to insert in their "Order and Form of Business" the following question:—"Have the Chapel Trusts that have been assisted by the Metropolitan Chapel Building Fund contributed to the Fund their annual repayment of Loans, and their Subscriptions according to the Resolution of the Committee?" (1883, p. 309).

2. The Conference, recognising the great benefits which the Fund has conferred on Metropolitan Methodism and on the cause of Christ generally, calls on all Metropolitan Methodists, and especially on the Trustees and all others interested in the one hundred Chapels already erected with the aid of this Fund, to sustain to the utmost of their power, that sufficient means may be provided for the further development of Methodism in the immense and ever-growing Metropolis. It trusts also that the Methodists of the Provinces will heartily aid their London brethren in this movement (1898, pp. 278, 279).

Erection of Smaller Chapels.—The Conference of 1883 sanctioned the erection of smaller Chapels, on condition "that in every case provision shall be contemplated for at least 600 sittings, but that assistance may be given towards the purchase of sites and the erection of Chapels that in the first instance will accommodate only 400 persons; provided (i.) that these sittings shall be all on the ground floor; (ii.) that the site shall be of at least sufficient size for the building to contain 600 sittings; (iii.) that the Chapel shall be so constructed as to allow, if the site permit, of inexpensive enlargement for 750 or 1000 sittings" (1883, pp. 308, 309).

Leasehold Sites.—The Conference directs the insertion in the "Order and Form of Business" of the Synods of the three

London Districts the following question:—"What Chapels in this District built with the aid of the Metropolitan Chapel Building Fund are Leasehold; and what provision is being made in such cases to secure the property at the expiry of the Lease, either by renewal of the Lease, or by finding such a sum as with accumulated interest will secure a similar property?" (1889, p. 390).

Chapels not to be Assisted from both the Metropolitan Chapel Building Fund and the Extension Fund.—The Conference further resolves that, to avoid misunderstandings in the administration of the Extension Fund and the Metropolitan Chapel Building Fund, no Grants or Loans shall be made from both Funds to any one Trust Estate without a Special Vote of the Conference (1898, pp. 280, 281).

Assistance to Provide Ministerial Supplies.

The Conference authorises the following new Regulations:—

1. The Committee shall have power, out of the income derived from Annual Subscriptions and Collections, after paying such expenses as legal considerations suggest, to appropriate such sums from time to time as it may think fit towards helping to provide Ministerial Supplies for a few years, by diminishing Grants, for the new Chapels to be built with the assistance of the Fund.

- (1) These Grants shall be made from year to year by vote of the Committee, on application of the promoters of the Chapel and cause concerned.
- (2) These Grants shall be made, not to supersede, but to supplement and stimulate local efforts, whether on the part of the Circuit in which the Chapels are situated, or, if outside any Circuit, on the part of the promoters of the Chapels; and they shall not be absorbed in ordinary Circuit income.
- (3) These Grants shall be paid quarterly on application, and with each application a Return shall be made of the financial condition of the cause on behalf of which they are made, showing the amount provided by the Circuit, or other promoters, and whether this is (a) collected on the spot, (b) in the Circuit, or (c) from sources outside the Circuit or locality.

- (4) These Grants may be commenced from the time a Minister, whether married or unmarried, is appointed to the Chapel, and the building is commenced.
- (5) The co-operation of the Home Mission Fund with the Committee in sustaining these new causes shall be sought and promoted.
- (6) Failure to comply with the conditions on which a Grant is made shall involve its immediate suspension, or even cessation.

2. The Minister thus appointed shall be kept to his special work, and be responsible for its success (1898, p. 279).

FUND FOR THE EXTENSION OF METHODISM.

The Fund for the Extension of Methodism in Great Britain was established in the year 1874. The Conference of that year adopted the Report of the Committee which had been appointed to deliberate on the subject. That Committee, after adverting with satisfaction to the efforts that had been made, throughout the Connexion, since the Census of 1851, to provide additional Chapel accommodation, and to extend Methodism by means of Home Missions and other Evangelistic agencies, went on to say: "Nevertheless, considering the great increase of the population during that period, and the fact that in many instances, both in towns and villages, little or no accommodation for worship is yet provided by the Connexion; and that it is abundantly evident that without some special Connexional assistance adequate provision is not likely to be made for a considerable time to come, this Committee is deeply convinced that a speedy and general effort should be made to raise a Fund which shall supplement the ordinary Funds of the Connexion, and the local resources of the people, in part to sustain an additional number of Home Missionary Ministers, whose duty it shall be to preach the Gospel in districts where Methodism does not now exist, and to facilitate the erection of Chapels where needed, and the enlargement of others which are at present insufficient."

The Report of the Committee, adopted by the Conference, included the following Recommendations :—

At the same time the Committee is fully aware that any plan for the accomplishment of these purposes will necessarily involve the calling out and training of additional Ministers, and will entail, for a time, a serious charge upon the Home Mission Fund, and upon the Fund of the Theological Institution ; and therefore the Committee judges that, whilst the larger part of the total sum to be thus specially raised should be employed to encourage and assist the erection and enlargement of Places of Worship in necessitous localities, a reasonable amount should, after careful consideration, be applied towards meeting the additional charges upon these Funds.

In the judgment of this Committee, it is not expedient to establish any separate Department for the distribution in detail of this Fund ; but, while it should be maintained and reported upon as a distinct Fund, the moneys raised should be administered through the existing Connexional agencies, in such manner as to give special assistance to the objects before indicated, and in such proportions as may, from time to time, be found desirable (1874, vol. xix. pp. 450, 530, 531).

The Extension Fund continues in active operation ; and has afforded important help in the erection of Chapels, in necessitous cases, in various parts of the country. Liberal contributions were made to it for several years, and a grant of £45,000 was made to this Fund from the “Thanksgiving Fund.”

In 1874, a Minister was set apart by the Conference as the General Secretary.

Grants to Re-opened Chapels.

Inasmuch as the re-opening of Chapels which have been closed for a period of not less than three years is, practically, the Extension of Methodism as really as if new Chapels had been opened, and as our people should be encouraged, wherever the need exists, to re-open such Chapels, the Conference sanctions the making of Grants in aid of the expenses incurred in such re-openings out of the Funds, subject to such arrangements as the Committee in each case may deem expedient (*Journal*, 1888).

For the constitution of the Committee, see *Nomination of Mixed Committees*, p. 444.

NORTH WALES DISTRICT CHAPEL FUND.

The North Wales District Chapel Fund was established in the year 1867. Its Rules, as enacted by the Conference of that year, are as follows :—

The Conference resolves : 1. A Fund shall be forthwith established in the North Wales District, to be called “The North Wales District Chapel Fund.” It shall consist of

- (1) The Loan Fund already in operation in the District, after full repayment of the instalments yet due to the Chapel Committee.
- (2) The Collections and Subscriptions for the Chapel Fund annually raised in the North Wales District.
- (3) Special Donations and Subscriptions.
- (4) Moneys to be derived from such other sources as have been sanctioned in connexion with the North Wales Loan Fund, in the terms of arrangement between the Chapel Committee and the North Wales Loan Committee.

This Fund shall comprise two Branches, viz. (A) for Loans ; and (B) for Grants and General Expenses.

2. This Fund shall be administered by a Committee, to be called the “North Wales Chapel Fund Committee.” This Committee shall consist of eight Ministers and eight Laymen to be annually appointed by the Conference, the Lay Members being nominated by the North Wales Annual District Synod. See p. 442.

3. This Committee shall appoint, from among themselves, one Minister and one Layman as co-Treasurers of the Fund, and one Minister as Secretary of the Committee.

4. All moneys received on account of the Fund shall be deposited in a Bank, and only withdrawn under the signatures of both Treasurers.

5. This Committee shall have the same power to vote and settle Grants and Loans to Chapel Erections and Enlargements, and in relief of existing debts, in the North Wales District, which is now possessed by the Chapel Committee with reference to Chapel cases in Great Britain.

6. The Chapel Fund shall no longer be applicable to cases in the North Wales District, except with respect to Grants and Loans already promised but not yet paid.

7. When a Grant or Loan in aid of a proposed Erection or Enlargement shall be recommended by the Annual or Financial District Synod, the North Wales Chapel Fund Committee shall, if they deem it necessary, before finally deciding on the case, appoint

one or two of their own number to meet the Superintendent, the Trustees, and other friends, and examine all Plans, Estimates, Tenders, Lists of Subscriptions, and other necessary matters, and report thereon to the Chairman of the District. If the Report be satisfactory, the Chairman shall report to the Chapel Committee, that the case may be proceeded with according to the established Rules of the Connexion.

8. In any case of Erection or Enlargement in which the North Wales District Committee shall deem it to be expedient, the Regulation requiring that three-fourths of the outlay be raised may be relaxed. But, in every such case, no debt shall be allowed beyond what may be advanced as a Loan by the North Wales Chapel Fund Committee.

9. In the case of an Erection or Enlargement to which the North Wales Chapel Fund Committee may promise a Grant or Loan, the Chapel Committee shall not decline to sanction the undertaking on the ground of the proposed amount of debt, provided that such debt shall have been agreed to by both the North Wales District Synod and the North Wales Chapel Fund Committee, and that, if more than one-fourth of the proposed outlay, it shall consist only of a Loan from the North Wales District Chapel Fund.

10. No case of Grant or Loan shall be settled until the Chapel Committee shall certify that, in their opinion, the property is legally secured in trust for the Connexion.

11. All matters relating to this Fund, and the proceedings of the District Synod with regard to Trust Property, and of the District Chapel Fund Committee, shall be annually reported, through the Chapel Committee, to the Conference. A statement of the accounts of the North Wales District Chapel Fund shall be printed in the Annual Report of the Chapel Committee.

12. In respect to all other particulars not herein expressly mentioned, the General Laws and Regulations of the Conference relating to Chapel affairs shall apply to cases in the North Wales District, as in other parts of Great Britain (1867, vol. xvii. pp. 136, 137).

SOUTH WALES DISTRICT CHAPEL FUND.

The South Wales District Chapel Fund was not instituted until the year 1873. It comprises two Branches, namely:—

1. (1) *A. Loans*.—For the erection of New Chapels, School-rooms, Ministers' Houses, and relief of debts by Loans. The Loans are not to exceed in amount the contributions raised to meet them by the Trustees of Chapels thus aided.

(2) *B. Grants*.—For the erection, enlargement, etc., of Chapels,

School-rooms, Ministers' Houses, and for the relief of debts by Grants.

2. *The Capital* consists of (i.) £130 raised by Special Subscriptions and Collections in the South Wales District; (ii.) the interest on £250, the proceeds of house property, and £50 granted by the General Chapel Committee; (iii.) the Collections and Subscriptions for the Chapel Fund, annually raised in the South Wales District; (iv.) Special Donations and Subscriptions; (v.) Income to be derived from such other sources as have been sanctioned in connexion with the South Wales Loan Fund, in the terms of the arrangement between the Chapel Committee and the South Wales Loan Committee.

3. Donations expressly made to any one Branch of the South Wales Fund shall be appropriated exclusively to that Branch; but donations without any limitations by the donors shall be applied to any of the Branches by which the general purposes contemplated may, in the opinion of the South Wales Chapel Fund Committee, be best promoted.

4. This Fund shall be administered by a Committee, to be called "The South Wales Chapel Fund Committee," which shall consist of eight Ministers and eight Laymen, to be annually appointed by the Conference, the Lay Members of the Committee being nominated by the South Wales District Synod. See p. 442.

5. This Committee shall appoint from among themselves one Minister and one Layman as co-Treasurers of the Fund, and one Minister as Secretary of the Committee.

6. All moneys received on account of the Fund shall be deposited in a bank, and only withdrawn under the signature of both Treasurers.

7. This Committee shall have the same power to vote and settle Grants and Loans to Chapel Erections and Enlargements, and in relief of existing debts in the South Wales District, which is now possessed by the Chapel Committee with reference to Chapel cases in other parts of Great Britain.

8. The Chapel Fund shall be no longer applicable to the South Wales District, except with respect to Grants and Loans already promised but not paid.

9. When a Grant or Loan in aid of a proposed Erection or Enlargement shall be recommended by the Annual or Financial District Synod, the South Wales Chapel Fund Committee shall, if they deem it necessary, before finally deciding on the case, appoint one or two of their own number to meet the Superintendent, the Trustees, and other friends, and examine all Plans, Estimates, Tenders, Lists of Subscriptions, and other necessary matters, and report thereon to the Chairman of the District. If the Report be satisfactory, the Chairman shall report to the General Chapel

Committee, that the case may be proceeded with according to the established Rules of the Connexion.

10. Aid from any Branch of the South Wales Fund shall be afforded only to such cases as shall be duly approved by the General Chapel Committee.

11. In any case of Erection or Enlargement in which the South Wales District Synod shall deem it to be expedient, the Regulation requiring that three-fourths of the outlay be raised may be relaxed. But in every such case, no debt shall be allowed, except what may be advanced as a Loan by the South Wales Chapel Fund Committee, or, in the case of house property, covered by an adequate house rental; and the Chapel Committee shall not decline to sanction the undertaking on the ground of the proposed amount of debt, provided that such debt shall have been agreed to by both the South Wales District Synod and the South Wales Chapel Fund Committee.

12. No case of Grant and Loan shall be settled until the General Chapel Committee shall certify that, in their opinion, the property is legally secured in trust for the Connexion.

13. All matters relating to this Fund, and the proceedings of the District Synod with regard to Trust Property, and of the District Chapel Fund Committee, shall be annually reported through the General Chapel Committee to the Conference. A statement of the accounts of the South Wales District Chapel Fund shall be printed in the Annual Report of the Chapel Committee.

14. In respect to all other particulars not herein expressly mentioned, the General Laws and Regulations of the Conference relating to Chapel affairs shall apply to cases in the South Wales District, as in other parts of Great Britain (1873, vol. xix. pp. 157-159).

FUND FOR THE RELIEF AND EXTENSION OF METHODISM IN SCOTLAND.

The Fund for the Relief and Extension of Methodism in Scotland was called into existence in the same year as the North Wales District Chapel Fund. In the Minutes of the Conference for 1867 we find the following Resolutions:—

At the request of the Scotland District Synod, the Conference agrees to sanction the establishment of a "Relief and Extension Fund for Scotland," on the following basis:—

1. The District Synod shall nominate a Committee of Ministers and Laymen to be annually submitted to the Conference for

appointment, and to act in harmony with the Wesleyan Chapel Committee.

2. The arrangements for raising this Fund shall not interfere with the existing Rules of the Connexion with reference to the General Chapel Fund, the Collections and Subscriptions for which shall be gathered and forwarded as heretofore, and as though no separate Fund for Scotland existed.

3. The money distributed from this Fund shall be granted only to Schemes which shall receive the sanction of the General Chapel Committee.

4. A portion of the proposed Fund shall be applied to the erection or purchase of Houses for Ministers.

5. Should the proposed Fund reach a sufficient amount, a part of it may be applied in aid of Day Schools (1867, vol. xvii. p. 138).

The Conference of 1877 adopted some additional Regulations respecting this Fund:—

The Conference directs that Annual Collections on behalf of the Fund be made in all the Chapels in the Scotland District on the Lord's day, and recommends that further help be rendered by Donations and Subscriptions. It resolves also that in the May District Synod of the Scotland District the interests of this Fund shall be considered when the Connexional Funds are under review.

The General Treasurers and Secretaries of the Fund are to be appointed by the Committee at their Meeting to be held in connexion with the Financial District Synod of the Scotland District (1877, vol. xx. p. 393).

In the following year (1878) the Conference expressed its gratification that the Committee of this Fund had "at length succeeded in raising so much of the capital sum required as to be able to commence the operations of the Fund; and, recognising the benefits likely to result therefrom," commended the Scheme to the "further liberality of the friends of Methodism in Scotland." Similar sentiments were expressed by the Conference in the two following years.

With regard to the nomination and constitution of the Committee of this Fund, see p. 443.

The Conference of 1881 also adopted additional Regulations for the Management of this Fund, on the recommendation of a Committee which had been appointed to consider the subject,

and resolved to publish, in connexion with them, the statement of the Original Purposes, Constitution, and Administration of the Fund, as agreed on by the Conference of 1869 (1881, p. 235).

The Purposes, Constitution, and Administration of the Fund contained in the Deed of Trust of the Fund registered in the Books of the Lords of Council and Session at Edinburgh on 4th November 1869, and modified by subsequent Conference legislation, are as follows:—

PURPOSES.

1. The liquidation of debts yet remaining on Wesleyan Methodist Churches, Chapels, or Manses in Scotland, or debts that may yet be contracted with the sanction of the Wesleyan Chapel Committee.

2. The purchase or erection of new or additional Places of Worship, and of sites for such objects.

3. The acquisition of Manses, or investment of money to meet house rents, thus making provision for the residence of ordained Ministers where at present only Probationers are stationed, and, from time to time, in other places as occasion may arise.

CONSTITUTION.

1. The Synod of the Scotland District shall nominate a Committee of Ministers and Laymen, to be annually submitted to the Conference for appointment, and to act in harmony with the Wesleyan Chapel Committee.

2. The arrangements for raising this Fund shall not interfere with the existing Rules of the Connexion with reference to the Wesleyan Chapel Fund, the Collections and Subscriptions for which shall be gathered and forwarded as heretofore, and as though no separate fund for Scotland existed.

3. The money distributed from this Fund shall be granted only to Schemes which shall receive the sanction of the Wesleyan Chapel Committee.

4. The General Committee for the Relief and Extension Fund to be annually submitted to the Conference for appointment, shall consist of the Superintendent of each Scotch Circuit, one Layman from each such Circuit, and of such other gentleman or gentlemen from any Circuit in Scotland as the District Synod may from time to time determine, reserving, however, to the District Synod full power, with consent of Conference, to alter or modify the con-

stitution of such General Committee from time to time as circumstances may, in their opinion, render desirable.

5. The Meetings of this Committee shall be held in connexion with the District Synod in May and the Financial District Synod in September, and at such other times as the Chairman of the District may deem necessary.

6. The Funds for the Relief and Extension Scheme shall be raised by annual Sabbath Collections in all our Places of Worship in Scotland, Donations and Periodical Subscriptions to be paid weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annually.

Each Methodist Trust in Scotland shall also be respectfully requested to contribute an Annual Subscription.

7. The Members of the General Committee shall be responsible for the interests of the Fund in their own Circuit and localities, and may form a Local Committee to aid them if they find it desirable to do so.

8. The General Committee shall annually, at their Meeting in September, appoint, either from their own number or otherwise, one or more suitable persons to be General Secretary or General Secretaries of said Fund, and one or more suitable persons to be General Treasurer or General Treasurers of said Fund.

9. All moneys received for the Fund shall be forwarded monthly to the General Treasurers.

10. A financial Report of the Fund shall be sent through the District Synod to the Conference every year.

ADMINISTRATION.

1. All Donations, Collections, and Subscriptions shall be invested until the Fund shall amount to £5000. To this shall be added income arising from Legacies, *Special* Donations, and from all *extraordinary* sources, until the Capital Fund shall reach at least £10,000.

2. The sum of £2000 of accumulated interest has been carried to a separate account, and shall be used for a *Loan* Fund. The interest of the Capital Fund, until the Fund reaches £10,000, shall be applied in free *grants* either for relief or extension.

3. All *Annual* Collections, Subscriptions, or other sources of *ordinary* income shall be applied, year by year, in payment of all working expenses, and in free *grants* either for relief or extension.

4. When the capital shall amount to £10,000, all moneys received thereafter may be capitalised or disposed of in Loans or Grants, as the Committee of the Fund may think proper.

5. If any contribution or bequest be made to the Fund on condition that it be appropriated to either Capital, Loan, or Grant Account, it shall be so appropriated, the foregoing arrangements notwithstanding.

MANAGEMENT.

I. APPLICATIONS FOR AID.

1. Applications for Aid, whether by Grant or Loan, must be made on the proper Schedules, copies of which may be had from the Secretaries of the Fund, as follows :—

- (I.) Aid towards cost of New Chapels.
- (II.) Aid towards removal of Debt on existing Chapels.
- (III.) Aid towards cost of New Manses, or investment of money to meet house rents.
- (IV.) Aid towards removal of Debt on existing Manses.

For Alterations or Enlargement, Schedules I. and III. may be adapted.

2. All Applications are to be lodged with the Secretaries on or before the 31st March in each year.

3. The Committee shall decide upon Applications for Grants and Loans at its Meeting in connexion with the May District Synod, but notice of intended Application for assistance should be given, if possible, at the Meeting of the Committee in connexion with the Financial District Synod.

4. A Sub-Committee, consisting of the Trustees and Officers of the Fund, together with the Superintendent, or, in his absence, the Circuit Steward, of each Circuit applying for aid, shall consider prior to the May District Synod the Applications then to be presented, and shall make such recommendations to the Committee as may seem desirable.

5. To facilitate the work of the Sub-Committee, and also of the Committee in May, the Secretaries shall prepare and forward to each Member of the Committee, fourteen days before the Meeting, an Estimate of the sums available for Grants and Loans respectively, and an Abstract of the Applications for Aid to be considered.

6. In the event of any Trust desiring to obtain between the Meetings of the General Committee a modification of the terms on which Grants or Loans have been promised, the Trustees and Officers of the Fund shall have power to consider any Application for such modification and to deal with the same, providing always that such modification shall have first received the approval of the General Chapel Committee.

II. CONSENT OF THE WESLEYAN CHAPEL COMMITTEE.

1. *Removal of Debts.*—The Committee of the Relief and Extension Fund shall only entertain Applications for Aid towards the removal of debts that have been contracted with the sanction of the Wesleyan

Chapel Committee, except in cases where debts had been in existence, and returned in the Annual Circuit Schedule, prior to the completion of the Fund at the Conference of 1880. Before presenting an Application for Grant or Loan towards the liquidation of debt, the Secretaries must ascertain whether the liability to be dealt with is eligible in accordance with this Regulation.

2. *New Erections*.—(1) The existing Regulations of the Conference, requiring sanction to be obtained from the District Synod (or District Chapel Committee), and the Wesleyan Chapel Committee, extend, as heretofore, to all cases of Erections, Purchase, or Enlargement in Scotland, and such consent must be obtained whether aid be requested from the Relief and Extension Fund or otherwise.

(2) Grants made from this Fund to new Erections may be regarded as Local Contributions, and applied towards fulfilling the conditions of the Wesleyan Chapel Committee, as to remaining debt ; but Loans to new Erections must be regarded as part of the debt that may be sanctioned by the said Committee.

(3) Before definitely promising aid to any proposed new Erection, the Committee must be certified that such Erection has received the sanction of the Wesleyan Chapel Committee ; but, in order to prevent disappointment, before such sanction has been obtained, the Committee of the Relief and Extension Fund may consider a preliminary inquiry, and indicate the kind and amount of help likely to be given if the Scheme be approved by the Wesleyan Chapel Committee.

III. PROMISES OF AID.

1. Loans without interest shall be promised only on condition that repayment be made by equal half-yearly instalments, extending over a period to be agreed upon, but never exceeding ten years. Satisfactory security, by promissory note, to be signed by responsible persons, shall be given for the punctual repayment of any Loan advanced ; and the whole amount remaining unpaid shall be immediately recoverable in default of the due payment of any instalment.

2. A form of consent, describing the kind and amount of aid promised, and the conditions on which the same will be paid, shall be sent by the Secretaries of the Fund through the Superintendent to the Trustees for insertion in their Trust Minute Book ; and a copy of the said document shall in each case be retained for the use of the Committee.

3. Aid shall only be promised to the Trustees who engage to contribute an Annual Subscription from their Trust Estate to the Relief and Extension Fund—the amount to be agreed upon with the Committee.

IV. SETTLEMENT OF AID.

1. No case of Grant and Loan shall be settled until the Wesleyan Chapel Committee shall certify that, in their opinion, the property is legally secured in trust for the Connexion.

2. Before the payment of any Grant or Loan promised to new Erections, an assurance must be obtained from the Secretaries of the Wesleyan Chapel Committee that they find, upon an examination of the books, vouchers, and accounts relating to the Trust, that the conditions of the Chapel Committee as to remaining debts have been fulfilled.

3. Upon payment of Grants and Loans, the Secretaries of this Fund shall take a Memorandum and Engagement, signed by the Superintendent, and as many of the Trustees as possible, stating the amount of aid given, the cost of buildings, or amount of debt defrayed, the remaining debt, and the amount of insurance against loss by fire; and engaging to maintain a reasonable system of Seat-rents, to keep the premises in good repair, sufficiently insured against loss by fire, and free from debt except as agreed to, or to be agreed to, by the Committee, to contribute from their Surplus Trust income in the Support and Extension of the work of God in their own Circuit and neighbourhood, and in aid of Wesleyan Connexional Institutions. A copy of such document is to be entered in the Trustees' Book in each case, together with a full statement of the accounts.

V. MISCELLANEOUS.

1. The Annual Collections and Subscriptions for the Fund are to be remitted to the Treasurer of the Fund, and full particulars for the Report are to be sent at the same time to the Secretaries.

2. All Loan instalments, as they become due, are for the present to be remitted to the Treasurer, per the Lay Secretary, of the Fund, who shall keep suitable Books showing the Account of each Trust with the Treasurers of the Fund.

3. Promissory Notes shall be made payable to the two Lay Treasurers or their order, shall be preserved in a depository to be determined from time to time by the Committee, and returned to Trustees on the repayment of the entire amount of the sum advanced in each case. The Promissory Notes, with all other Securities belonging to the Fund, shall be annually presented to the Auditors of the Fund, together with an exact statement of the accounts with each indebted Trust.

4. A Statement of Receipts and Payments shall be published annually, such Statement to include Subscriptions and Collections received, Loan instalments repaid, and Aid paid to Trustees (1881, pp. 348-354).

CONCERTED ACTION.

1. The Conference resolves that Concerted Action among the Methodist Churches is eminently desirable.

2. In order to promote such action, the Conference agrees—That a United Committee be annually constituted by the appointment of Representatives by the several Conferences, for the purpose of mutual defence, in the following proportions, viz. Wesleyan Methodists, 16 ; Primitive Methodists, 8 ; United Methodist Free Churches, 6 ; Methodist New Connexion, 4 ; Bible Christians, 4 ; Methodist Reform Union, 1 ; Independent Methodists, 1 (1895, p. 310).

Unnecessary Multiplication of Chapels.

The Conference expresses the belief and hope that the better understanding which now prevails between the different Methodist Churches will issue in the avoidance of the unnecessary multiplication of Chapels, especially in small places ; and in any case of local difficulty and disagreement that may arise, directs its Chapel Committee to correspond with similar Committees of the other Methodist Churches to promote this result (1895, p. 311).

United Meetings.

1. Wherever practicable, a United Meeting of the Ministers and an equal number of Representative Members of the various Methodist Churches shall be held once a year for devotion, fellowship, and counsel.

2. Wherever practicable, a United Lovefeast of the Members of the various Methodist Churches shall be held annually, on a Sunday afternoon. Where other arrangements will allow, Whit Sunday shall be chosen (1895, pp. 310, 311).

ECUMENICAL CONFERENCE.

See *Minutes*, 1896, p. 312.

CHAPTER VIII

MAINTENANCE AND EDUCATION OF MINISTERS' CHILDREN.

A LEADING feature of the financial arrangements of the Wesleyan Methodist Economy is, that Ministers receive *support* according to the presumed requirements of their families, and not *salaries* according to the value which may be placed upon their services. There is thus an allowance for every Child until the age of twenty years has been reached, unless the Child should be previously independent of his or her parents in point of pecuniary support. But in consequence of the exigencies of the Fund, the allowance for the present is made until the Child is nineteen years of age (1893, p. 257).

To remedy the inequalities which must necessarily arise in carrying out this arrangement under the system of an Itinerant Ministry, the *Children's Fund* was established in the year 1819. It must often happen that a Minister with a large family will be appointed to a Circuit with comparatively few Members and very limited resources; and, on the other hand, a Minister with no Children dependent on him will be appointed to a large and influential Circuit. The principle of the Children's Fund, adopted in 1819 and modified in 1883, is, that each Circuit is to contribute a certain amount to a General Fund, according to the incidence of Assessment on the Circuits contained in the Conference Resolutions adopted in 1883 and 1884. Circuits which have a larger number of Children stationed on them than is proportionate to the number of Members in Society, financial ability, and other conditions contained in the Scheme of Assess-

ment, *receive* from this Fund, while those which have fewer children than their just proportion *pay* to it.

At each Conference a certain sum is apportioned to each District to be raised within it, according to the principles of Assessment contained in the Regulations of the Conference. The adjustment of the sums to be raised by the several Circuits belongs to the Financial District Synod, and although the amount to be charged to the Districts cannot be altered (except at each five-yearly period), in the distribution of that amount among the several Circuits of the District, other circumstances should be taken into the account, so that the more burdened Circuits may be relieved by those whose circumstances are more favourable.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE MINISTERS' CHILDREN'S FUND AND OF THE SCHOOLS FUND BY THE SAME COMMITTEE.

The Conference of 1881 resolved: "That the administration of the Children's Fund be entrusted to the same Committee which has charge of the Schools Fund" (1881, p. 230). The management of this Fund, both in its Maintenance and Education Sections, and also the Schools for Ministers' Children, is now entrusted to a General Committee annually appointed by the Conference.

The Scheme adopted by the Conference of 1879, and modified by that of 1897, is as follows:—

1. A General Committee of Education and Maintenance for Ministers' Children, consisting of thirty-two Ministers and thirty-two Laymen, shall be annually appointed by the Conference; and its Meetings shall be ordinarily held in London, or as the Conference shall direct; but should any urgent question arise requiring decision, the General Secretary, after consultation with the President of the Conference, is empowered to summon a Special Meeting of the Committee.

2. It shall be the duty of this Committee to consider and report to the Conference touching all questions relating to the Education and Maintenance of Ministers' Children; to collect the necessary funds, and to appropriate them in accordance with the directions of the Conference.

3. The General Committee shall include the Members of the Governing Body of Kingswood School and the Members of the Governing Body of the Girls' School, elected in accordance with any Regulations already or hereafter to be adopted by the Conference.

4. Before the Meeting of the Conference in each year, and at such time as the General Committee may determine, each Governing Body shall present its Annual Report to the General Committee.

5. The General Committee shall appoint, year by year, a Finance Sub-Committee, consisting of the Officers of the Education Section of the Fund, the Secretaries of the Governing Bodies, the Local Treasurer and Secretary of the Trinity Hall School, the Secretary of the Cash Office, and the Governor of Kingswood School, and in addition to these, four Ministers and nine Laymen, being Members of the General Committee; to meet before each Quarterly Meeting of the General Committee, to consider the Quarterly Statements of the Governor of Kingswood School and of the Local Treasurer of the Girls' School, and generally to compare and watch the expenditure for both the Schools, and to report to the General Committee.

6. After examination and consideration of the Returns and Estimates thus furnished, the General Committee shall determine the maximum expenditure which, in its judgment, should be allowed to each Governing Body during the following year.

7. The General Committee shall prepare a Report upon the condition and efficiency of the Schools, and upon the state and requirements of the Fund; this Report shall include the returns, estimates, and amounts allowed, as before described.

At the Conference of 1879, it was directed—

1. That special efforts be made to increase the amount of the Annual Subscriptions and Collections. 2. That the utmost economy be enforced in all the Schools, and in matters of general expenditure (1879, pp. 207, 208).

The Conference of 1882 adopted the following Resolution:—

The Conference directs the Governor of the School for Boys to cease to provide clothing for the boys; and that this Rule shall apply to the sons of Supernumerary and deceased Ministers, except in cases of extreme need. This Resolution was slightly modified by the Conference of 1886, which directed "that the application and enforcement of the Rule respecting the clothing of the sons of necessitous Supernumeraries or Widows at Kingswood School, be left to the discretion of the General Committee" (1882, p. 240; 1886, p. 221).

The Conference of 1881 adopted a Provisional Scheme to meet the anticipated deficiency of the Fund for the years 1881-82, 1882-83, 1883-84. That Scheme included a contribution from the several Districts in Great Britain, and also from Ministers and Preachers on Trial; subject, however, to a modifying provision, to the effect that, should the ordinary income of the Fund in any Circuit be in advance of the amount reported in the year 1881, the surplus might be devoted towards the reduction of the Subscriptions of Ministers and Preachers on Trial, and the Circuit Assessments. At the Conference of 1888 this "modifying provision to the Assessment Scheme" was rescinded (1881, pp. 224, 225; 1888, p. 226).

The Conference directs:—

1. That each Ordained Minister at home in Full Work shall subscribe not less than one guinea per annum to the Education Section of the Fund.

2. That each Preacher on Trial at home shall subscribe half a guinea per annum.

3. That Ministers in Circuit work having Children at the Schools shall pay £2 for each Child, in addition to the subscription of one guinea.

4. That Ministers received into Full Connexion with the Conference, yet not provided with houses, shall, in the matter of the Annual Subscription, be treated as Preachers on Trial, subscribing half a guinea per annum to the Fund.

5. That the Education Section of the Fund shall be made self-adjusting upon the lines already adopted in respect of the Maintenance Section. The extra charge upon each Circuit calling out an additional Minister is therefore £2 per annum during the period of probation, and £4 per annum afterwards (1881, p. 225; 1897, pp. 257, 258). See p. 352.

Payments by the Missionary Society.

The Conference directs:—

(1) That the sum of £23, instead of £25, be charged for Children at the Schools, "on the Foundation," whose fathers are now in the Home work, and for whom the subscription of £2 (for a Child at School) will be paid by the father according to Rule; (2) that for Children at School, "on the Foundation," whose fathers are still in the Foreign work, the charges be (a) for boys £25, instead of

£34, (*b*) for girls £30, instead of £40; (3) that the same standard of payment obtain for the Children of deceased Missionaries who have died in the Foreign work (*Journal*, 1897).

The following Resolutions, affecting the Fund, have also been adopted by the Conference, viz. :—

1. The usual and stated Annual Allowances for Education to the Children of Supernumerary and deceased Ministers shall be paid out of the Children's Fund, subject to the existing Regulations in these cases—the charge for Educating those Children of Supernumerary or deceased Ministers who are, or may be, admitted into either of our Schools, being, however, as heretofore, chiefly borne by the School Fund (1844, vol. x. p. 79).

2. A Minister who leaves English Methodism, that he may transfer his active Ministry to another Methodist Church, has no claim on the Fund (1891, pp. 256, 257).

3. In those cases in which Children are admitted to our Schools whose fathers were admitted into Full Connexion subsequent to the birth of such Children, unless the amount fixed as compensation money in the proposed Memorandum of Agreement¹ has been paid, £30 a-year shall be charged for each Child received into the Schools, instead of £20 as at present (1881, p. 226).

4. Remittances on account of the Education Section of the Fund, whether Circuit Collections, Subscriptions, Assessments, Payments for extra years, or Repayments of Educational Allowances, shall be forwarded to the Secretary of the *Common Cash Office* (1881, p. 225; 1897, pp. 257, 258).

N.B.—The current scale of Assessments, and Subscriptions payable by Ministers and Preachers on Trial, will be found in the *Minutes of the Conference*, issued annually.

¹ The reference in this expression is to a preceding Resolution of this Conference, viz. :—“Whereas certain married Ministers with families are occasionally admitted into Full Connexion with the Conference, from other Conferences or Churches,—and whereas misunderstandings have arisen, and are likely to arise, with regard to the claims of such Ministers upon the several Connexional Funds,—the Conference resolves that a Committee, consisting of the Officers of the Home Mission Fund, the Schools Fund, the Auxiliary Fund, and of the Wesleyan Missionary Society, shall draw up a Memorandum of Agreement setting forth the claims of the several Funds and the privileges to which such Ministers will or will not be entitled.

N.B.—This Agreement shall include in its terms the Home Mission Fund, the Schools Fund, the Children's Fund, and the Auxiliary Fund. See *Memorandum of Agreement*, pp. 85–87.

ASSESSMENT FOR THE CHILDREN'S AND SCHOOLS FUND.

In the Scheme as adopted by the Conference of 1819, the *sole* principle of calculation as to the amount to be charged to Districts was the number of Members in Society returned to the preceding Conference ; but this was greatly modified in the following basis of Assessment adopted in the year 1883, namely :—

Basis of Assessment for the Maintenance Section of the Fund.

1. In future the mode of Assessment on the Districts shall be at varying rates per Minister, and such rates shall be determined by the number of Members in Society and financial ability—other conditions, such as Grants made from the Home Mission and Contingent Fund to Districts on account of Circuits which are not self-supporting, etc., being taken into consideration.

2. In estimating the financial ability of a District, the following shall be taken into account, viz. Circuit Income, Seat-rents, Ordinary Contributions to our Funds, with Sunday School Income.

N.B.—Circuit Income shall be understood to include all sums administered by the Circuit Stewards, however raised ; where Ministers' Houses are Circuit Property, a fair rental for such Houses shall be included ; in considering the amount of Seat-rents, the interest paid on debts on Trust Estates shall be taken into account.

3. The District Synods shall arrange the incidence of the Assessment on the Circuits, in accordance with the provisions contained in Resolutions 1 and 2. . . .

4. All estimates of Expenditure shall be made for periods of five years, and any Assessment made by the Conference shall remain in force for a period of five years. . . .

5. At the Conference prior to that at which each five-yearly period begins, a representative Committee shall be appointed to prepare a Scheme graduating the incidence of the Assessment to be made upon the Districts for the ensuing period.

6. Such representative Committee shall consist of the President and the Secretary of the Conference, the ex-President, the Officers of the Home Mission Fund, the Schools and Children's Fund, one Minister and one Layman to be elected by each District at the Financial District Synods in September, with twelve Ministers and as many Laymen as will equalise the number of Ministers and Laymen to be appointed by the Conference.

7. A regular Balance-sheet of the Children's Fund, showing total Income and Expenditure in detail, shall be printed in the Annual Report.

8. The Departments shall pay, on account of each Minister employed by them, the average cost per Minister of the Children's Fund, to the Connexion.

9. The Children's and Schools Fund shall be amalgamated.

10. The Subscriptions of the Ministers to the Education Section of the Fund shall be continued, and the balance of the deficiency shall be raised by Assessment on the same basis as the Maintenance Section of the Fund (1883, pp. 248, 249).

Institutions of Methodism and the Children's Fund.

The amounts and claims hitherto paid from the Schools Fund on account of the Children of Ministers employed and paid by the different Institutions of Methodism to which their services are devoted, shall be henceforth paid by such Institutions respectively (*Journal*, 1866).

N.B.—Ministers in Departments are assessed for the Maintenance Section of the Children's Fund at £18 each; to be paid as directed in the Minutes each year (1889, p. 224).

No Children's Allowances can be claimed by Ministers on whose behalf the ordinary Assessment has not been paid (1892, p. 237).

DISTRICT ASSESSMENT.

1. An Assessment for the Children's Fund shall be made in respect of all Ministers in the Home work not being Supernumeraries, and all Preachers on Trial whose names are on the Stations, and all Children of such Ministers shall be chargeable to that Fund.

2. In Circuits to which a single man has been appointed for a fifth year and upwards, the Assessment in every case shall be at the same rate as that for a married Minister.

3. For every additional Minister called out in any District, an additional charge shall be made upon the District to the amount of the average cost per Minister to the Connexion, such amount to be charged either wholly on the Circuit by which the Minister is called out, or in part also on the other Circuits within the District, as may be determined by the District Synod.

N.B.—During the first four years, the Assessment shall be half the amount charged for a full married Minister.

4. In case of the increase of the number of Ministers in any five-yearly period, the amount of the District Assessment shall be increased by the amount of the Assessment for each additional

Minister called out ; but there shall be no decrease in the amount of the District Assessment during that period.

N.B.—In the case of changes in the boundaries of Districts or Circuits, an equivalent change shall be made in the Assessment.

5. All balances of the Maintenance Section of the Children's Fund shall be forthwith available for the purposes of the Education Section of the Fund (1884, pp. 271, 272).

Allowances for Maintenance.

The Allowance for each Child, adopted when the Children's Fund was established, was Six Guineas per annum ; and this sum is still recognised in the general arrangements of the Children's Fund, and in calculating the balance which Circuits, after providing for the Children stationed on them, have to pay to, or receive from, this Fund. But many Circuits very properly augment, on their own account, the sum which they allow for each of the Children of the Ministers appointed to them, to eight or ten guineas.

Period of Claim.

By the Regulation adopted in 1814, "The Preachers are permitted to receive the usual and regular Allowance for the Children until they attain the age of twenty years ; unless by marriage, or otherwise, they shall at an earlier period become independent of their parents in point of pecuniary support" (1814, vol. iv. p. 37).

In 1893, the Conference resolved : "That for the next ten years the twentieth year of Maintenance Allowance be withdrawn. This decision shall be reconsidered at the Conference of 1903, or earlier, if the state of the Fund shall warrant it" (1893, p. 251).

First and Last Claims.

Allowances commence the first Quarter-day after birth, and are considered as then due in advance (1820, vol. v. p. 139). The final payment is therefore due on the Quarter-day preceding the nineteenth birthday.

Children Born during the Year.

The cases of Children born during the year are to be met as they arise, by arrangement between the Circuit Stewards and the District Treasurers of the Children's Fund (1868, vol. xvii. p. 371). In the case of Children born after the May District Synod, and before June 30th, the Financial Secretary of the District shall apply to the Secretary of the Children's Fund, during the Conference, for the Quarter's Allowance.

The sums due from Circuits, after the regular Allowances for Children on the Circuits have been paid by the Circuit Stewards, are to be remitted to the District Treasurer immediately after each Quarterly Meeting (1819, vol. v. p. 45).

N.B.—The Conference in 1896 directed that the above Regulation should apply to the case of Infants dying before payment has become due (*Journal*, 1896).

Ministers from other Conferences and other Churches.

That in the case of a Minister received at once into Full Connexion from another Conference or Church, and having a Child or Children when so admitted or within six months thereafter, inasmuch as the Connexion has not received the benefit of his Ministry during probation, in which time he would have had no Child chargeable on the Children's Fund, in order to give such Child or Children a claim on the Fund, compensation in the case of one Child shall be paid to the Fund to an amount equal to five years' allowances, viz., at the present rate, £31, 10s.; for a second Child, an additional sum equal to six years' allowances, viz., at the present rate, £69, 6s. for the two Children; for a third Child, an amount equal to seven years' allowances, viz., at the present rate, £113, 8s. for the three Children; and for each additional Child a further increased sum, at the same progressive rate.

In the case of a Minister having a Child or Children when received on probation, or born during the period of his probation or within six months after its expiration, in order to give such Child or Children a claim on the Children's Fund, he shall pay a compensation to the Fund for each such Child according to the above arrangement (1881, pp. 230, 231).

See *Memorandum of Agreement*, pp. 85–87.

N.B.—The Regulations and Bye-laws governing the administration of the Children's Fund, in both its branches of Maintenance and Education, have been codified and published

by the direction of the Conference (1886), and can be obtained at the Wesleyan Conference Office.

Children Dying during the Year.—In case of the death of any regular Claimant on this Fund, the Parents or Guardians of such deceased Claimant shall be entitled to receive a sum equal to a whole year's allowance, in lieu of the quarterly payment due at the quarter-day next after such decease, to be a final Grant from the Fund towards the Expenses of Affliction and Burial (1870, vol. xviii. p. 131).

This Regulation applies to the case of Infants dying before payment has become due (*Journal*, 1896).

N.B.—Preachers who marry Widows (other than Preachers' Widows) having Children, have no claim for such Children on any of our Funds (1798, vol. i. p. 431).

ALLOWANCE FOR EDUCATION.

In the application of the principle that the Ministers of Methodism receive support according to the requirements of their families, and not salary,—provision is made for the *Education* of their Children during six years, either in the Connexional Schools, or by an allowance of £12 a year for six years; the payments commencing at nine years of age, and being continued until fifteen years,—the ninth year being reckoned from the Christmas before payment.

An Assessment is also made on account of the Education Section of the Fund. The Conference allocates to each District a specified sum to assist in providing Educational Allowances; and at the Financial District Synods, each Circuit, according to its resources, has a definite sum assigned to it, to be paid by the Circuit Stewards to the Secretary of the Cash Office (1896, p. 241). See p. 346.

The Connexional Schools not being large enough to admit all the Children of Ministers who are of an age to receive the education there given, and some Ministers preferring to make local arrangements for their Children, the allowance of £12 per annum is made for the education of all Children of

Ministers who are not admitted into the Schools. In regard to these payments, the following Rules have been adopted :—

(1) Payments shall be made at Conference for the Kalendar year then current. Six annual payments of £12 each are allowed.

(2) Parents may begin to claim for their Children when they are nine, ten, eleven, or twelve years of age on the preceding Christmas Day ; but the first claim for a Child who is twelve years of age on or before any Christmas Day must be made at the following Conference at the latest.

(3) Parents who have once begun to claim shall receive their payments annually. This Regulation shall not apply in the case of a Candidate for admission to the Schools who has passed the Entrance Examination, but for whom there is not room on the next following re-opening.

(4) In any case in which the Education Allowance has been received by the parent, the claim upon the Schools Fund shall be understood to have been met and satisfied for that year.

(5) *Return of Educational Allowances.*—Any Educational Allowance may be returned within the Kalendar year in which it is received. Educational Allowances received in previous years may be returned, provided that Simple Interest is paid thereon at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for such period as they have been held.

(6) A Schedule is issued annually to each Superintendent, in which he is required to furnish a particular account of all claims for Educational Allowances in his Circuit ; specifying distinctly the names of the Children for whose Education the claims are made, together with the date, year, and place of their birth, and the exact number of years during which the Allowance has been received. No claim to be entered on this Schedule for Children at the Schools (1869, vol. xvii. p. 594 ; 1896, pp. 247, 248).

SCHOOLS FOR THE EDUCATION OF MINISTERS' CHILDREN.

At a very early period of his career, Mr. Wesley established a School at Kingswood, near Bristol, intended to be a general seminary of commercial and classical learning, conducted on strictly Christian principles. It became by degrees, after some years, a School for the Education of the Sons of the Itinerant Preachers who laboured in connexion with him. In this Institution Mr. Wesley ever took the liveliest interest. The Rules for its management, and the course of study to be

observed in it, were drawn up by him; and he watched over it with a father's care. For many years this was the only School provided specially for the sons of Wesleyan Methodist Ministers; but in 1812 a second School was established at Woodhouse Grove, near Leeds. The immediate oversight of each of those Establishments was entrusted by the Conference to a Minister of standing and experience, who was bound to maintain efficient discipline, and at the same time to exercise a paternal care over the youths committed to his charge. In addition to selecting the Governor, the Conference reserved to itself the appointment of the Head Master of each of the Schools; but the general management was entrusted to Local Committees, composed of Ministers and Laymen.

The premises at Kingswood having become dilapidated and unsuitable, it was resolved, in the year 1846, to secure larger and better School premises. The site fixed upon was at Lansdown, Bath; and the College erected there received the designation of *New Kingswood*.

In the year 1875, after lengthened deliberation, extending over several years, the constitution and arrangements of these Schools were modified, so as to constitute them *one School*, in two Branches, the educational arrangements being under the direction and control of one Head Master. Under this Scheme, the New Kingswood Branch was for the senior, and Woodhouse Grove for the junior boys. A Minister was still appointed by the Conference to each Branch of the School, as Governor. Instead of being cared for by Local Committees, the School, in its two Branches, was placed under the control of one Governing Body. At the Conference of 1881 it was resolved to concentrate the two Branches of the School on one site, *New Kingswood* being enlarged for the purpose; "but that the estate at Woodhouse Grove be retained with a view to any future use for any Wesleyan Methodist Educational purposes which may hereafter be found necessary or advisable" (1881, p. 224).

The Scheme for the Management of the School, as revised, and adopted by the Conference of 1897, is as follows:—

PART I.—THE GOVERNING BODY.

1. The School shall be managed by a Governing Body which shall consist of

2. The President, Ex-President, and Secretary of the Conference ;
The General Treasurers, and the General Secretaries of the Education Section of the Fund ;

The Secretary of the Cash Office ;

The Governor and Head Master of the School, for the time being, together with eight other Ministers and fourteen other Laymen, inclusive of *one* Representative nominated by the Masters of the School, and *three* by the “Old Boys’ Union,” to be called Elected Members.

N.B.—Where a double qualification is possessed, another Member shall be chosen.

3. Seven out of the Elected Members shall retire from office annually.

The places of the retiring Members of the Governing Body shall be filled up by the Conference ; and at every Conference seven of the Elected Members of the Governing Body, being those who have been longest in office, shall go out of office. No Member of the Governing Body retiring from office shall be eligible for immediate re-election unless recommended by a four-fifths majority of the General Committee, meeting in June. The Members who are to retire in rotation shall hold office until replaced.

4. Of the Members thus elected by the Conference, one shall be nominated every three years by the Masters of the School other than the Head Master.

5. One shall be nominated annually by the “Old Boys’ Union.” All pupils of Kingswood, New Kingswood, or Woodhouse Grove Schools who shall have left before the year 1878, and all pupils of New Kingswood who shall hereafter receive a certificate of honour or merit from the School, shall, if annual subscribers to the funds of the School, be Members of the “Old Boys’ Union.”

The Conference shall not be bound to accept a nominee under either of these two clauses.

6. Every Member of the Governing Body must be a Minister in Full Connexion with the Conference, or a Member of the Wesleyan Methodist Society. No Master of the School, other than the Head Master, shall be a Member of the Governing Body.

7. A Member of the Governing Body shall vacate his office—

(1) By death ;

(2) By voluntary retirement, to be signified by him to the Governing Body in writing ;

(3) By Resolution of the Conference removing him from his office ;

(4) By becoming lunatic or bankrupt, or by the liquidation of his affairs ; or

(5) By neglecting, for one year, to attend any Meeting of the Governing Body, or any Sub-Committee thereof.

Vacancies under this clause shall not be filled up until the period when the Member vacating office would have retired in rotation.

8. The Governing Body may act, notwithstanding vacancies.

9. Subject to any Regulations which may be made by the Conference, the Governing Body may fix their own times and places of meeting, their mode of summoning meetings and transacting business, their quorum, and procedure. They may appoint Sub-Committees with such powers as they think fit. Minutes of their proceedings shall be kept in the usual way.

10. Within the limits of the Trust-Deed the Governing Body shall prescribe the general subjects of instruction, the relative prominence and value to be given to each group of subjects, the arrangements respecting the School terms, vacations and holidays, and the number of boys. The Governing Body shall take general supervision of the sanitary condition of the School buildings and arrangements. They shall fix the number of Assistant Masters to be employed. They shall every year fix the amount which they think proper to be paid for the purpose of maintaining Assistant Masters, and providing and maintaining a proper School plant or apparatus, and otherwise furthering the current objects and the efficiency of the School, out of the maximum sum allowed for expenditure in that year.

11. Before making any Regulations under the last foregoing clause, the Governing Body shall consult the Governor and the Head Master, in such a manner as to give them full opportunity for the expression of their views. The Governor and Head Master may also from time to time submit proposals to the Governing Body for making or altering Regulations concerning any matter within the province of either of them. The Governing Body shall fully consider any such expression of views or proposals, and decide thereon.

PART II.—THE SCHOOL AND ITS MANAGEMENT.

1. Subject to the provisions of the Trust-Deed, the Governor of Kingswood School shall be a Minister in Full Connexion with the Conference, and shall be appointed or removed by the Conference on the recommendation of the General Committee, and of the

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Governing Body; and if suspended from his office as a Wesleyan Methodist Minister, shall thereby vacate the Office of Governor.

2. The Head Master of Kingswood School shall be appointed by the General Committee, subject to the approval or disapproval of the Yearly Conference next succeeding such appointment.

3. The Governor and the Head Master shall be the chief officers of the School, and shall dwell in such residences as shall be assigned to them respectively. Each shall have the occupation and use of such house or any other property of the Trustees of the School of which he becomes occupant in respect of his official character and duties, and not as tenant; and shall, if removed from office, deliver up possession of such residence and other property to the General Committee, or as they direct. He shall not, except with the permission of the General Committee, permit any other person to occupy such residence or any part thereof.

4. The Governor and Head Master shall give their personal attention to the duties of their respective offices, and neither of them during his tenure of office shall accept or hold any office or appointment which, in the opinion of the General Committee, may interfere with the proper performance of his duties. But this limitation shall not apply to any appointment made by the Conference.

5. In case any Governor or Head Master, Tutor or other Officer, being a Minister in or on Trial or probation for connexion with the said Conference, shall be suspended from the exercise of his Ministerial functions during the intervals of the yearly sittings of the said Conference, according to the Laws and Usages of the Ecclesiastical Discipline established by the said Conference, then such Governor, Head Master, Tutor, or other Officer, being a Minister so suspended, shall immediately cease to hold office in connexion with the said School, and be henceforth removed from the said School, hereditaments, and premises.

6. In case any Governor or Head Master being a Minister, or in case any Head Master being on Trial or probation for connexion with the said Conference, shall be so suspended, or shall depart this life, or be desirous of relinquishing his office, or shall reside beyond seas for two consecutive Kalendar months, or shall refuse, neglect, or become incapable to act, it shall be lawful for the said General Committee, convened by the President for the time being of the said Conference from time to time, to appoint a successor in his place and stead until the then next Annual Meeting of the said Conference. In case any Head Master, not being a Minister, shall depart this life, or be suspended, or be desirous of relinquishing office, or shall reside beyond seas for two consecutive Kalendar months, or shall refuse, neglect, or become incapable to act, it shall be lawful for the said General Committee, convened by the

President for the time being of the said Conference, from time to time, to appoint a successor in his place until the then next Annual Meeting of the said Conference.

7. It shall be lawful for the said General Committee, convened by the President for the time being of the said Conference, from time to time, to dismiss or suspend, and remove from the said School, hereditaments, and premises, any Head Master of the said School (not being a Minister in or on Trial or probation for connexion with the said Conference) for any cause which to them shall seem reasonable.

8. In case any Head Master, not being a Minister in or on Trial or probation for connexion with the said Conference, shall be so dismissed or suspended and removed as aforesaid, or shall depart this life, or be desirous of relinquishing office, or shall reside beyond seas for two consecutive Kalendar months, or shall refuse, neglect, or become incapable to act, it shall be lawful for the said General Committee, so convened as aforesaid from time to time, to appoint a successor in his place, subject nevertheless to the approval or disapproval of the then next Annual Meeting of the said Conference. A like authority, in respect of any Tutor or Tutors, or other subordinate Officer or Officers of the School, is possessed by the Governing Body of the School.

9. The Head Master shall sign a declaration to be entered in the Minute Book of the General Committee, to the following effect :—

“I, _____, declare that I will always, to the best of my ability, discharge the duties of Head Master of Kingswood School during my tenure of office, and that if I am removed by the Conference or by the General Committee according to the constitution of the said School, I will thereupon acquiesce in such removal, and relinquish all claims to the mastership and its future emoluments, and deliver up to the General Committee, or as they may direct, possession of all the property of the School then in my possession or occupation.”

10. Subject to the Rules prescribed by or under the authority of this Scheme, the Governor shall be responsible for the religious instruction and oversight of the School. Subject as aforesaid, the Governor shall also superintend the domestic management of the School.

11. The Governor and Head Master jointly shall have the power of giving holidays, not exceeding the maximum number of holidays to be given in the terms.

12. Subject to appeal to the Governing Body, the Head Master shall be the supreme executive authority in respect of School studies and discipline in School hours, and the Governor in other

respects ; but the system of discipline shall, as far as possible, be the same throughout, and shall be arranged by the Governor and Head Master in concert. The Governor and Head Master jointly may remove a boy from the School, but on removing any boy they shall forthwith report the case to the Governing Body.

13. Any matter on which the Governor and Head Master shall not agree shall be referred to the Governing Body.

14. The Governor shall receive such payment as the General Committee, after taking into consideration all the circumstances of the case, shall direct.

15. The Head Master shall receive such payment as the General Committee from time to time appoint.

16. Subject to the provisions established by or under the authority of this Scheme, and to the Regulations of the Conference from time to time, the School shall be open to the Sons of Wesleyan Ministers, or deceased Wesleyan Ministers.

17. If the number of applications for admission should exceed the number of vacancies, the order of admission shall be decided by the Governing Body, having regard to the special circumstances of each case.

18. No boy shall, without special leave of the Governing Body, be admitted into the School under the age of ten years ; and no boy, without such special leave, shall remain in the School beyond the end of the School term in which he attains the age of nineteen years. And the Governor and Head Master shall make Regulations, subject to the approval of the Governing Body, for the withdrawal of boys from the School in cases where, through idleness or incapacity, they have fallen considerably below the standard of position and attainment proper for their age.

19. The ordinary time of residence shall be six years, provided that the Education Allowances have either not been received, or been returned. Subject to the veto of the Conference, special leave to remain for any further period may be given by the General Committee on the recommendation of the Governing Body. Such further period shall be granted either by way of Exhibition or on such payment as the Governing Body and the General Committee may think fit.

20. Every applicant for admission shall be examined by or under the direction of the Head Master, who shall appoint convenient times and places for that purpose, and give reasonable notice to the parents. Such Examination shall be graduated according to the age of the boy, or other circumstances, at the discretion of the Governing Body. No boy shall be admitted to the School except on the terms of undergoing such Examination and being found fit for admission. The Governing Body shall call for certificates of health and of character.

21. There shall be once in every year an Examination of the School by Examiners appointed for that purpose by the Governing Body, but otherwise unconnected with the School. The Examiners shall report to the Governing Body on the proficiency of the Scholars, and on the position of the School as regards instruction and discipline, as shown by the results of the Examination. They shall also mention the name of the boy who has shown the highest attainments, and the names of any other boys who in their judgment are worthy of praise or substantial reward. But they need not report any name if in their judgment the result of the Examination is wholly unsatisfactory. The fees of the Examiners shall be fixed by the Governing Body.

22. The Governor and Head Master respectively shall report to the Governing Body annually, or oftener if required, as to the general condition of the School, and as to any special occurrences. They also may mention the names of any boys who in their judgment are worthy of praise or substantial reward, having regard both to proficiency and to conduct.

23. The General Committee shall make provision for such further Scholarships and Exhibitions as the funds of the School, or any funds specially given for the purpose, will allow, and, subject to the terms of such gifts, may fix the terms of election to all Scholarships.

24. The School shall be divided into two departments—an Upper School and a Lower School. Subject to the directions from time to time of the Governing Body, the Upper and Lower Schools shall be so arranged that the pupils pass from the Lower to the Upper School at an age of about thirteen years.

25. The Upper School shall be divided into Classical and Modern departments.

26. Subject to any directions from time to time of the Governing Body, after consultation with the Governor and Head Master as to matters within their respective provinces, the subjects of instruction shall be—

LOWER SCHOOL.—Writing, Latin, French, Arithmetic, Elementary Mathematics, and Object-lessons in Science.

UPPER SCHOOL.—

Classical Side.—Latin, Greek, French, German, Mathematics, and Physical Science.

Modern Side.—Latin, French, German, Mathematics, Book-keeping, Land Surveying, Physical Science, and Political Economy.

GENERAL.

27. The Governing Body may receive Donations or Endowments for the general purposes of the School, or for any Scholarships,

Exhibitions, or other special purposes of the School. All such Donations or Endowments shall be invested in the names of the Trustees of the Scholarships Fund.

28. If the Conference shall at any time resolve to admit to the School boys not the sons of Wesleyan Ministers, the Governing Body may admit such boys on such terms as they, subject to any Resolutions of the Conference, shall think expedient.

29. The Governing Body shall make, in the month of June in each year, a Report to the General Committee on the state of the School.

30. The engagement of the Head Master shall be terminable at the end of any one of the ordinary School terms, by a notice in writing duly given by either party, on or before the last day of the preceding term. Personal service upon the Secretary of the General Committee for the time being, or a written notice addressed to him at his private residence, shall be a good service upon the General Committee. And a notice signed by the Secretary of the General Committee and left at the School, or addressed to the Head Master at the School, shall be deemed a good service upon the Head Master.

But the General Committee, for what in their opinion is an urgent cause, may, by a Resolution passed at a Special Meeting, and affirmed by not less than two-thirds of the whole existing General Committee, declare that the Head Master ought to be dismissed from his office without the notice in this clause aforesaid, and in that case they may appoint a second Special Meeting to be held not less than a week after the first one, and may then, by a like Resolution passed at such second Meeting, and affirmed by not less than two-thirds of the whole existing General Committee for the time being, absolutely and finally dismiss him without such notice. And if at the first of such Meetings the General Committee think fit at once to suspend the Head Master from his office until the second of such Meetings, they may do so by Resolution affirmed by not less than two-thirds of the whole existing General Committee. Notice of both such Meetings shall be given to the Head Master.

31. No Head Master or Assistant Master shall receive or demand from any boy in the School, or from any person whomsoever on behalf of such boy, any gratuity, fee, or payment, except such as are prescribed or authorised by the General Committee.

SCHOOL FOR MINISTERS' DAUGHTERS.

In the year 1870 a School for Ministers' Daughters at Clapton, which had been commenced by private enterprise, was settled on Trustees, and adopted as a Connexional Institution ; and a second School was soon afterwards established in that

neighbourhood. Also the late Mr. John Fernley generously built, at his own cost, School premises for the reception of forty Ministers' daughters at Southport—an act which the Conference of 1871 most gratefully acknowledged. The Schools at Clapton were subsequently removed to Queenswood, Clapham Park, and united in one establishment; but, in view of the grave financial position of the *Fund for the Maintenance and Education of Ministers' Children*, the Conference of 1893 directed that Queenswood School be closed, and the freehold sold; and that the accommodation at Trinity Hall be increased, should such provision, upon further inquiry and consideration, prove to be desirable and possible (1893, p. 250). The School at Trinity Hall is now placed under the management of the Governing Body, and a Local Committee. The Queenswood School is now successfully carried on under the Wesleyan Middle-class Schools Committee. In relation to the School for the Daughters of Ministers, the Conference has resolved as follows:—"That, until as ample provision be made for the Connexional education of the daughters as for the sons of our Ministers, no girl shall be received into the School under *twelve* years of age, and that the time of continuance in the School be restricted to *four* years" (1873, vol. xix. p. 151; 1878, p. 204).

With respect to the *admission* of Children to the Connexional Schools, the following additional Regulations have been adopted:—

1. The Conference directs that a certificate of health, signed by a medical practitioner, shall be required at the commencement of each term, in the case of all boys and girls received into, or returning to, our Connexional Schools (1878, p. 204).

2. The name and age of every applicant for admission to the Schools must be sent not later than the 1st of November in each year, in the case of boys, to one of the Secretaries of the Governing Body, named by the Conference from year to year (1895, p. 243); and in the case of girls, to the Secretary of the Governing Body of the School for Girls, the admission of girls to the School being now

placed at the discretion of the Governing Body instead of the Executive Committee (1880, p. 206).

N.B.—The School year at both Schools begins in January (1893, p. 249), but in the case of boys admitted by vote of the Governing Body under the age of ten, or at any other period of the year than January, the parent may be required by the Governing Body to pay for the portion of that year at the rate of £25 (1896, pp. 244, 245).

3. Each applicant for admission is required to pass an *Entrance Examination*. These Examinations embrace the following subjects:—

(1) *For Boys*.—An Examination will be set in elementary English subjects suitable to boys of about the age of eleven. A graduated age allowance will be made for younger boys, while older boys will be expected to reach a correspondingly higher standard, and boys above the age of twelve will be expected to show some knowledge of Latin and French. A specimen Examination Paper will be sent by the Head Master, Mr. WALTER P. WORKMAN, M.A., B.Sc., upon receipt of a stamped envelope.

(2) *For Girls*.—*Reading*—A few lines of poetry selected by the Examiner.

Writing (Small Hand)—Eight lines to be slowly dictated from a reading-book. This will also be a test of spelling.

Arithmetic—The Four Simple Rules and the Four Compound Rules (Money and Weights and Measures).

Geography—Outlines of the Geography of Europe in general, and particularly of England.

Grammar—To parse simple sentences correctly and readily.

History—To have a fair knowledge of Bible History and of the History of England.

Plain Needlework.

The Examination shall be graduated according to the age of the girl, or other circumstances, at the discretion of the Governing Body.

The *travelling expenses* of the boys and girls are to be “defrayed out of a common Fund for each School on a scale to be fixed, from time to time, by the Governing Bodies, this Fund being raised by an equal charge upon every parent for each Child he has at Kingswood or Trinity Hall” (1874, vol. xix. p. 416; *Journal*, 1895).

In some exceptional cases *extra years* are granted, under

special circumstances, to boys and girls. The scale of payment is as follows:—

Children of Supernumeraries and Widows	. £22
Boys recommended by the Governor and Head	
Master as being “near to winning a	
Scholarship”	£25
For all others	£30

“This sum shall include the £6, 6s. from the Children’s Fund, which the parents are to receive in their Circuits.” In the case of boys, regard must be had to Clause 19 of the Scheme of Management. See p. 359.

Extra year payments are to be “made in four instalments, one on each quarter day” (1880, pp. 206, 209).

Notice of Removal from School.—“The Conference directs that, in order to avoid any unnecessary disturbance of arrangements made for the teaching and general management of the Schools, and in order to give the Governing Bodies sufficient time to make an equitable selection of Candidates for any vacancies which may occur during the year, parents having Children at the Schools be required to give three months’ notice before the removal of such Child or Children” (1884, p. 222).

CHAPTER IX

PROVISION FOR WORN-OUT MINISTERS AND MINISTERS' WIDOWS,
AND THE CHILDREN OF SUPERNUMERARY AND DECEASED
MINISTERS—FUND FOR THE BENEFIT OF NECESSITOUS LOCAL
PREACHERS.

WORN-OUT MINISTERS' AND MINISTERS' WIDOWS' FUND.

Origin and Design of the Fund.

IN an early period of Methodism there was a Fund designated the *Preachers' Fund*, derived partly from the contributions of the Ministers, and partly from those of the people.

Out of this Fund payments were made, according to certain Rules, to Supernumeraries and the Widows of deceased Ministers, and occasionally to their Children. In the year 1799 the following Resolution was adopted in relation to this Fund :—"The Subscriptions of the travelling Preachers shall, in future, be considered as separate from the Subscriptions of the people; and the Subscriptions of the people shall be considered as forming a fund of Charity, which is to be applied only to the assistance of real objects of mercy among the Supernumerary and Superannuated Preachers, and the Widows of Preachers. Nevertheless, those who have hitherto received allowances from the Fund shall continue to receive them, notwithstanding this Regulation, as a retrospective law would be unjust. The Subscriptions of the Preachers, being their own money, subscribed in general with great difficulty out of their little pittance, shall be distributed among the Supernumerary

and Superannuated Preachers, and Widows, according to strict and impartial rules of justice" (1799, vol. ii. p. 20). From this time the title the *Methodist Preachers' Fund* was restricted to the amount contributed, from time to time, by the people; while the Fund raised by the contributions of the Ministers among themselves was known as the *Legalised Fund*. In 1804 the designation of the former was changed to the *Methodist Preachers' Merciful Fund*, as more expressive of the special object for which it was raised. From this Fund, however, in 1805, and for several subsequent years, after the Grants to individuals had been paid, an amount was handed over to the Treasurer of the Legalised Fund, towards the payment of the Annuitants having claims on that Fund.

Auxiliary to the Annuitant Society.

In 1813 the title of the Merciful Fund was changed to the *Methodist Preachers' Auxiliary Fund*, this Fund being regarded as auxiliary to the Legalised Fund, or *Itinerant Methodist Preachers' Annuitant Society*, as it is now designated. The resources of this last Society, it should be added, are derived chiefly from the contributions of those Ministers who become members of it, so as to be entitled, on being declared Supernumeraries by the Conference, to a certain annuity, according to the number of years they have travelled, and so that their Widows, in the case of their decease, are entitled to a smaller annuity, regulated on the same principle.

The *Auxiliary Fund*, as administered previously to the Centenary movement in 1839, did not afford support to all Supernumerary Ministers, or all Widows of deceased Ministers, but only met cases of necessity or peculiar difficulty, which had been recommended by their respective District Synods to the consideration of the Committee entrusted with its management. But in connexion with this movement, the generous layman who took a leading part in it urged that arrangements should be made for a more regular and adequate

provision for Supernumerary Ministers and the Widows of Ministers. A Plan was carefully prepared by a Committee, and, having been cordially approved by all the District Synods in Great Britain, was gratefully adopted by the Conference of 1839. Up to this time the income of the Auxiliary Fund had been derived from Private Subscriptions; but now, in addition to these, it was arranged that a contribution of sixpence per member should be solicited from all the Members of the Society.

Sources of Income—Basis of Support Extended.

(1) *Contributions in the Classes.*—The Regulations now in force, with some slight modification in subsequent years, are those found in the Minutes of 1851 :—

1. Each Circuit is to be responsible to the General Treasurers for a yearly sum, equal, at the least, on a general average of all the Societies included within that Circuit, to sixpence per member, taking the numbers for the Circuit, in all cases, as returned to the preceding Conference, and published in its Minutes.

2. The Conference directs that, at the renewal of the Society Tickets during the September Visitation, every Minister shall fully explain to the Members of each Class the nature and reasonableness of those claims upon their justice and liberality which were intended to be met by the establishment of this Fund. He shall also give to each Member a short printed Address, explanatory of the same particulars. He shall then enter in the Class Book the individual Subscriptions, as in the case of the Yearly Collection at the March Visitation. At the *first* or *second* Class Meetings in the month of October, the Leaders shall collect the Subscriptions thus promised, and shall pay the same to the Circuit Treasurer, as hereinafter appointed.

3. In order to prevent a deficiency in the sum which an average of sixpence per member throughout England, Scotland, and Wales would raise, the Conference directs that the Ministers of every Circuit be enjoined, with the assistance of our Lay friends, to do their utmost to raise its full proportion in October, by the Subscriptions in the Classes; and that in any Circuit which shall then prove deficient, Public Collections shall be made to meet such deficiency if not otherwise provided for.

4. In every Circuit, at the September Quarterly Meeting, a Circuit Treasurer for the Worn-out Ministers' and Widows' Fund shall be appointed, whose office it shall be—

(1) To meet the Class Leaders, not later than the last week in October, in order to examine the books in which the contributions of the Members shall have been entered ; and to receive the sums which shall have been paid in the early part of that month.

(2) To see, or send to for the same purpose, those Leaders who cannot attend the Meeting.

(3) To confer with the Ministers and leading friends of the Circuit, if it should happen, in any case, that the amount received in the Classes falls below the proportionate sum chargeable on the Circuit, on the best method of making up the deficiency.

(4) To remit the Circuit contribution to the District Treasurer for the Auxiliary Fund, as is the case in respect to the Children's Fund ; this remittance to be made if possible by the end of November, and in any case the Circuit Treasurers are requested to close their accounts with the Class Leaders not later than Christmas, and to present their statement to the Christmas Quarterly Meeting (1880, p. 226).

(5) At each Financial District Synod, held in September, a District Treasurer shall be chosen, to whom all sums raised in the Circuits of his District shall be paid, and he shall transmit such sums to the General Treasurer.

The Conference of 1881 requested the District Treasurers to remit the contributions from the Classes, *as soon as possible*, to the clerical Treasurer of the Fund, and to close their accounts not later than 31st January. It was also directed by the Conference of that year that, "in addition to the Subscriptions in the Classes, a report should be made to the Annual District Synod of the amount of the Private Subscriptions, and of the Public Collections in each Circuit for the year immediately preceding" (1881, pp. 246, 247).

(6) At the Annual District Synods held in May, when the Circuit Stewards are in attendance, the District Treasurers shall report the sums which they have received from the several Circuits ; when, if any Circuit has not raised its quota, the Ministers and Stewards of that Circuit shall be urged to make up the deficiency, and arrangements shall be made for the continued prosecution in the several Circuits of this truly Christian measure, which the Connexion in the Centenary year so unanimously recommended to the adoption of the Conference (1851, vol. xi. pp. 664, 665).

The Conference of 1855 directed as follows :—

At the renewal of the Society Tickets during the September Visitation, every Minister shall fully explain to the Members the nature and reasonableness of those claims upon their justice and liberality which were intended to be met by the establishment of this Fund. He shall then enter in the Class Book the individual Subscriptions. At the first or second Class Meetings in the month

of October, the Leader shall collect the Subscriptions thus promised, and shall pay the same to the Circuit Treasurer. Each Circuit is to be responsible to the General Treasurer for a yearly sum, equal at the least, on a general average of all the Societies included within that Circuit, to sixpence per member, the numbers for the Circuit being taken, in all cases, as returned to the preceding Conference, and published in the Minutes (1855, vol. xiii. p. 112).

(2) *Subscriptions and Collections.*—The *Private Subscriptions* for this Fund are still maintained, and form an indispensable portion of its income. The earnest recommendation of the Committee of the Fund is—and the Conference has directed—that one *Public Collection*, at least, shall “be made in all our Chapels on behalf of this Fund.”

1. The Conference regrets to find that in many Circuits the Public Collections are largely, and in some cases wholly, taken to supplement the Class contributions; and recommends that, by a conscientious mention of the subject in the Classes by the Ministers, an effort be made to raise the quota of sixpence per member, so that the Public Collections may go to the direct augmentation of the Fund (1888, p. 254).

2. Whilst anxious to secure separate and accurate returns of the amounts raised in the Classes, the Conference urges upon the Circuits the necessity of the average of sixpence per member being *made up* in each Circuit; and sanctions this being done in such a way as may be approved in the respective Circuits—provided that the Public Collections, usually made in July, be separately returned (1890, pp. 265, 266).

Relation of Supernumeraries to the Auxiliary Fund.

When the arrangement to secure regular and systematic support to Supernumerary Ministers was brought into operation, the Conference adopted the following Regulations to guard against its abuse:—

Supernumeraries entering into Business.—1. When a Preacher, declared by the Conference to be a Supernumerary, shall have travelled eighteen years or upwards, it should be assumed, as a general principle, that he ought not to be advised to go into business, but should employ the remainder of his life and strength in such occasional Ministerial and Pastoral services as his health may permit, and as the Conference, with due regard to his family circumstances, or local connexions, may appoint, and should receive,

as matter of course, the aid of the New Auxiliary Fund, according to his standing.

2. Every Preacher declared by the Conference to be a Supernumerary, having travelled less than eighteen years, shall be considered as entitled to receive, as matter of course, the aid of the New Auxiliary Fund for the term of three years; but that, at the expiration of that term, his case shall be specially considered by the Conference, with a view to decide whether the hand of God shall have been so laid upon him by affliction, or otherwise, as to make it clear that, under all the circumstances, he ought, or ought not, to employ himself in some suitable business, so as to exempt him from the necessity of applying for the additional aid afforded by the New Auxiliary Fund. That the terms of his being brought under such an exemption, if it be advised, in reference to the Contingent Fund and the Ministers' Children's Fund, be settled by special stipulation, in each particular case, according to circumstances; and that he shall *then* cease to be regarded as a Supernumerary, and become an accredited Local Preacher; but that if the Conference do not advise his entrance into business at all, he shall then be certified to the Auxiliary Fund Committee as a Supernumerary Preacher, entitled, according to his standing, as a matter of course, to the additional pecuniary benefits provided by that Fund.

3. Any Preacher declared a Supernumerary, and having travelled less than eighteen years, who, being advised by the Conference to enter into business, refuses or neglects to do so, shall have no further claim, as a matter of course, on the New Auxiliary Fund; but his case may be referred, if recommended by his District Synod, for *discretionary* relief, to the Auxiliary Fund Committee.

4. All Supernumerary Preachers, whatever may be their standing in the work, who shall in future enter into business, whether with the advice of the Conference or by their own choice and decision, shall be considered as accredited Local Preachers only, and not entitled to have their names retained in our Journal or on our Minutes.

5. No Supernumerary entering into business shall be entitled to receive anything from the Auxiliary Fund for a longer period than two years after he shall have so entered into business.

6. Ministers entering into business, and so retiring from the Work, shall not be entitled to receive the Allowances from any of our Funds on behalf of such Children as may be born before they enter into business, for a longer period than two years; and for such Children as may be born after their retirement, they have no claim whatever (*Journal*, 1852).

Marriage of Supernumeraries.—In the case of Supernumeraries marrying after they become such, the same Regulations shall be considered in force with respect to the Auxiliary Fund, as are now

adopted in similar cases by the Preachers' Annuitant Society (1839, vol. viii. p. 510).

N.B.—The Regulation of the Annuitant Society is as follows :—

No woman who shall have married a Member of this Society after he has become a Supernumerary, or has been declared by the Conference incapable of performing the duties of an Itinerant Preacher, shall, after his decease, receive any benefit from this Institution, unless she had previously been an Annuitant, in which case her former Annuity shall revive (Rule X.). See p. 599.

Supernumeraries or other Ministers resident abroad.

1. No Minister is allowed to be absent from the country during a great part of the year without the consent of the Conference, or, in case of emergency, of the President, who shall report the case to the ensuing Conference.

2. Any Minister having permission to reside abroad shall have such permission annually renewed.

3. If any Minister remain abroad for more than one year, he shall be required either to make arrangements with the Officers of our Connexional Funds, with a view to retiring from the English work, or to furnish the Conference annually with a satisfactory Report from some other Methodist Conference in recognised relation with this Conference.

4. If any Minister shall enter into business, or shall accept office of emolument of any kind, during his residence abroad, he is required, without delay, to notify the fact to the Chairman of the District where his name appears on the Stations.

5. In all such cases the existing Rule, which requires the presence of a Minister at the Annual District Synod, shall be held to be binding unless his absence has been expressly sanctioned in accordance with the foregoing Resolutions; and even in that case he is required to furnish a statement in due time containing an answer to the Question in the "Order and Form of Business in District Synods" as to his continued belief in our Doctrines.

6. Any Minister having permission to reside abroad shall furnish a Report as to his Ministerial conduct from the proper authority, as defined in the above or in the letter from the President giving the required permission.

7. A List of all such Ministers shall be annually printed in the Minutes of Conference at the end of the Stations (1888, p. 215; 1893, p. 362).

Annuities and Special Aid.

1. Each Supernumerary Minister, and each Widow of a Minister, is entitled to such an Annuity as may, from time to time, be determined by Resolution of the Conference (1889, pp. 413, 414).

2. *Scale of Allowance*.—The present scale is as follows :—

(1) Supernumerary Ministers shall receive £1 per annum for each year they have respectively travelled, together with £14 in addition.

(2) The Widows of deceased Ministers shall receive 10s. per annum for each year their husbands respectively travelled, together with £14 in addition (1878, p. 235).

(3) If the Widow is twelve years younger than her husband, the Annuity is reduced to one-half; if the disparity reaches twenty years, no Annuity is allowed (*Regulations of Committee*).

3. The following are additional Regulations bearing on the administration of this Fund :—

(1) Ministers becoming Supernumeraries while in the Mission work, and the Widows of Ministers who have died in the Mission work, are claimants on the Funds of the Missionary Society.

(2) All Ministers, whether Members of the Methodist Preachers' Annuitant Society or not, shall be equally entitled to the benefit of the Auxiliary Fund (1872, vol. xviii. pp. 636, 637).

(3) Any Claimant on this Fund who shall cease to be a Member of the Wesleyan Methodist Society shall be removed from the List of Claimants (*Journal*, 1845).

4. *Cases of Peculiar Affliction*.—Cases of peculiar affliction or distress among Supernumeraries or the Widows of deceased Ministers are still considered by the Committee of the Auxiliary Fund, consisting of Ministers and Laymen; but every such case must be recommended by the Annual District Synod.

5. *Grants for Furniture*.—Grants for Furniture to Ministers when they become Supernumeraries, or to the Widows of Ministers who have died in the work, shall no longer be made by the Auxiliary Fund, but by the Contingent Fund (1853, vol. xii. p. 264).

N.B.—The removal of the Luggage of a Supernumerary Minister or of a Deceased Minister from his Circuit is considered a Connexional Expense.

In all cases where a House is needed for the Orphans of a deceased Minister, the usual Grant for Furniture shall be allowed (1875, vol. xix. p. 683).

6. *Ministers not Members of the Annuitant Society*.—Whilst all Ministers, whether Members of the Methodist Preachers' Annuitant Society or not, are equally entitled to the benefit of the Auxiliary Fund, the Conference resolves :—

Where a Minister who becomes a Supernumerary for one year is not a Member of the Annuitant Society, the *extra* Grant from the Auxiliary Fund shall be less by the amount which would have been due to him from the Annuitant Society¹ (1887, p. 261; 1888, p. 318).

¹ The Annuitant Society is not a Connexional Institution, but for convenience its Rules and Regulations are printed in an Appendix, pp. 595–606.

7. *Supernumeraries for One Year—Special Provision.*—Respecting the special provision for Ministers who have travelled not more than twenty-one years becoming Supernumeraries for one year, see *Compendium of Regulations of Home Mission and Contingent Fund* in Chapter II. of this Part of the present work, p. 285.

See also (6) above.

8. *Supernumeraries who are Members of the Legal Conference.*—Any Supernumerary who is a Member of the Legal Conference, and is unable to pay his travelling expenses to and from the Conference, shall be entitled to receive such expenses if the Annual Home Mission Committee, to which application must be made, shall approve (1896, p. 332).

9. *Supernumeraries Returning to the Full Work.*—The Conference resolves that in all cases where it is recommended that Supernumerary Ministers shall return to the Full Work, inquiry and report shall be made by the Committee appointed at Conference to examine the cases of those Ministers who have had Supplies during the year (1897, p. 244). For Committee, see p. 135 (1).

10. *Temporary Supernumeraryship in relation to the Legal Conference.*—In the case of a Member of the Legal Conference who has been permitted to retire for one or for two years, he shall not thereby cease to be a Member of the Legal Conference, provided he then (that is to say, at the end of the first or second year) returns to the Full Work; and he shall remain a Member of the Legal Conference for two years after becoming a Supernumerary permanently (1890, p. 212; 1895, p. 361).

11. *Funeral Expenses.*—Funeral Allowances are paid from the Auxiliary Fund, for Supernumerary Ministers and for the Widows of Supernumerary Ministers, *in cases of need* (1896, p. 279. See 1829, vol. vi. pp. 511, 512).

Constitution and Appointment of Committee.—See *Nominations of Mixed Committees*, pp. 456, 457.

THE CHILDREN OF SUPERNUMERARY AND DECEASED MINISTERS.

Until the year 1837, when a Minister became a Supernumerary, or was removed by death, his Children ceased to have any claim on the Children's Fund; but this great anomaly was removed in that year, at the earnest request of many of our people, and with the unanimous and cordial concurrence of all the District Synods in Great Britain. After gratefully acknowledging the affection thus evinced, the Conference of that year resolved—

1. That an allowance of Six Guineas per annum shall in future be regularly granted from the Children's Fund towards the maintenance of the Children of Supernumerary and of deceased Preachers, until they attain the age of seventeen years, on the same plan as that on which a similar allowance is now made from the same Fund to the Children of Preachers actually stationed in Circuits.

2. That the same allowance, like that to Children of Preachers still engaged in the work, shall also be regularly granted out of the same Fund, from the age of seventeen to that of twenty, to such Children of Supernumerary or deceased Preachers as shall so long continue to be more or less dependent on their parents, or surviving parent, or on their relatives and friends, in point of pecuniary support.

N.B.—At present it is to the age of *nineteen*.

3. That the District Synods be directed regularly to enter the names of all such Children as come within the scope of the two preceding Articles, in the List of Claimants on the Children's Fund, annually forwarded to the Committee at the Conference who superintend that Department of our financial economy.

4. That these Regulations shall not be understood as applying in the case of any Preacher who may marry while his name is on the List of Supernumeraries, so far as regards the Children that may be born of such marriage during the time that he is a Supernumerary (1837, vol. viii. p. 215).

The Children of Supernumeraries and deceased Ministers are eligible for admission to our Connexional Schools ; and, if not admitted, are entitled during six years, from the age of nine to fifteen, to the usual Educational Allowance.

Present Payments on behalf of the Children of Supernumeraries and Deceased Ministers.

The payments at present are as follows :—

1. *Maintenance*.—Six Guineas a year for each Child up to nineteen years of age, if still dependent on the parents. See pp. 350–352.

2. *Education*.—Twelve Pounds a year for each Child of educational age (who is not sent to one of the Connexional Schools) for six years, ranging from ten to sixteen years;¹ or for a boy, residence at the School for six years ; and for a girl,

¹ Claims may begin at nine years of age.

residence at the School for four years, together with two years' payment. *N.B.*—Contributions have sometimes to be made.

N.B.—If any Preacher have Children born after the time when he became a Supernumerary, such Children shall have no claim for Education upon the Schools Fund; but in any necessitous case, application for assistance may be made to the Auxiliary Fund (1829, vol. vi. p. 500).

Assessment on Departments.—All the Ministers, including Preachers on Trial, not appointed as Ministers of Circuits, but separated or engaged to other service, shall have a sum paid for them (to the Treasurers of the Auxiliary Fund) by the Department of service to which they are appointed, equivalent to that which is provided for the Circuit Ministers by the Class contributions (1876, vol. xx. p. 211). See p. 349.

NECESSITOUS LOCAL PREACHERS' FUND.

The Conference of 1879 made a Grant of £8000 from the "Thanksgiving Fund" for the benefit of necessitous Local Preachers. It was directed that this sum should be "invested, and the interest distributed from time to time, by a Committee to be appointed by the Conference."

The following Resolutions were adopted by the Conference of 1881:—

1. That a Trust be formed, consisting of seven persons, three of whom shall be Ministers, and four Laymen, to hold, invest, and apply the Grant from the Thanksgiving Fund for the benefit of necessitous Local Preachers, according to such Rules and Regulations as the Conference may from time to time direct.

2. That the same Trustees shall be empowered, by a provision of the Trust-Deed, to hold, invest, and apply, under the direction of the Conference, any other sums of money which may be hereafter given or bequeathed for the benefit of necessitous Local Preachers.

3. That the Trust-Deed shall provide for the filling up of any vacancy in the number of Trustees which may occur by death, or by any cause which to the Conference may seem fit or necessary as a cause to be inserted in the Trust-Deed, disqualifying any Trustee from continuing upon the Trust (1881, p. 267).

In 1882 the Conference approved of the insertion of the following clause in the Trust-Deed :—

The Trustees may from time to time accept any further sums which may be given or bequeathed for the purposes aforesaid, and shall hold the same upon any special Trusts, and subject to any special conditions or directions, which may be declared or imposed by the respective donors or testators, and, subject thereto, upon the same Trusts as are herein declared with respect to the said sum of eight thousand pounds (1882, p. 291).

In accordance with the above Resolutions, a Trust-Deed was executed and the money invested. By the terms of the Deed the Accounts are open at all times to the inspection of any person appointed on that behalf by the President of the Conference for the time being.

Any person desiring to benefit the Local Preachers may do so by this Trust, the Trustees being empowered to receive legacies and donations either for the general purposes of the Fund, or with such special directions and conditions as the donors or testators may desire. Communications may be made to the Secretary and the Treasurer of the Trustees.

Necessitous Local Preachers' Committee.

A Committee is annually appointed by the Conference to administer the available income of the Fund in accordance with the Scheme adopted by the Conference.

All sums voted to recipients by the Committee are forwarded through the Superintendents of Circuits, with whom it is optional to pay Grants made in favour of the several applicants in one amount, or by instalments, as they may deem advisable.

The name and address of the Secretary of the Committee is printed in the Minutes of Conference.

The Accounts of the Trustees and of the Committee are audited by a Chartered Accountant.

CHAPTER X

GENERAL EDUCATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS: SUNDAY SCHOOLS—
ELEMENTARY DAY SCHOOLS—PLAN OF WESLEYAN EDUCATION—PUPIL TEACHERS—ADMISSION TO THE TRAINING COLLEGES—THE EDUCATION FUND—MIDDLE-CLASS EDUCATION—HIGHER EDUCATION.

THE influence of Wesleyan Methodism has, from the first, been exerted in favour of Education. Its Founder was deeply impressed with the value of mental culture, and sought in every practicable way to promote it. Soon after the establishment of *Sunday Schools*, Mr. Wesley expressed his approval of the Scheme, and exhorted his people to seek in this way to bring the Children of the poor under religious instruction. The Conference, in the year 1817, affirmed its conviction, "that well-conducted Sunday Schools are of the greatest utility and importance, and deserve the zealous support of our Preachers and friends"; and then went on to assert the principle "that, in order to secure and perpetuate the full religious benefit which such Institutions are capable of affording, they should be connected as closely as possible with the Church of Christ; and that the school-hours should be so arranged as not to interfere, more than is absolutely unavoidable, with the punctual attendance, both of Teachers and Children, on those ordinances of public worship which are appointed by God" (1817, vol. iv. p. 343, 344).

In the year 1827, after careful preparatory consultation, a Plan was adopted for the management of Wesleyan Methodist

Sunday Schools, embracing certain *Principles* which should govern all their arrangements, and laying down general *Rules*, formed in accordance with these Principles, for their government and working. The Rules were carefully revised in the year 1868, and subsequently in the years 1873 and 1874; and in their revised form are contained in the *Plan of Wesleyan Methodist Education* given in this Chapter. The Principles on which they are based deserve to be placed on permanent record. They are as follows:—

First Principle.—Sunday Schools should be *strictly and entirely religious* Institutions, and ought therefore to be Schools for the *Christian* instruction and education of the Children of the poor; as it is only on this ground that the occupation of the Lord's day in tuition can be held to consist with the due observation of the Christian Sabbath.

Second Principle.—Schools designed for the religious education of poor Children ought to be conducted in distinct and avowed *connexion* with some particular branch of the visible *Church of Christ*.

Third Principle.—Sunday Schools should be most conscientiously and anxiously so conducted that they may not interfere, further than an invincible necessity may compel, with the *primary* and *universal* duties of the holy Sabbath; and, in particular, with the constant attendance of Teachers and Children on the public worship of God's house, at the hours most generally devoted to that purpose, and best adapted to secure their edification.

Fourth Principle.—On the same ground of vigilant concern for the best interests both of Children and of their Teachers, the *bustle* and the *secularity* of mere *school-business* should be as much as possible avoided in the management of Sunday Schools; and the spiritual objects and character of the Institutions should be so carefully kept in mind, as to regulate and control the whole plan and process of Sabbath education (1827, vol. vi. pp. 284–286).

In the year 1836 the attention of the Conference was earnestly directed to the subject of Education in general, and, in particular, to the importance of establishing Wesleyan Methodist *Day Schools*; and a small Committee was appointed to make inquiries and to offer suggestions bearing on the subject. These were carefully considered in the following year; and a Wesleyan Education Committee was annually

appointed, the functions of which were defined from time to time. In 1840 it was decided to spend the interest of the sum of £5000 which had been appropriated from the Centenary Fund to that Committee, chiefly in training Teachers. In the year 1843 an important movement was made throughout the Connexion for the general establishment of *Week-Day* and *Infant Schools*. In 1851 the *Training College at Westminster* was opened, the Rev. John Scott being its first Principal; and in 1872 a second Training College was opened at *Southlands, Battersea*, being designed for the training of female Teachers, so as to leave that at Westminster available exclusively for young men.

PLAN OF WESLEYAN METHODIST EDUCATION.

The following is the general "Plan of Wesleyan Methodist Education." It was adopted very much as it now stands by the Conference of 1873; but some modifications and additions were made in the several Conferences of 1874, 1875, and 1878, most of which had been rendered necessary by recent legislation.

I. CONSTITUTION OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE OF EDUCATION.

The Constitution of the General Committee of Education is set forth in the *Nomination of Mixed Committees*, pp. 449, 450.

II. FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE.

1. To exercise a general supervision of the affairs of Wesleyan Education; to connect and combine the whole of our School operations, in their aggregate character, for the purpose of public utility; to be a medium of communication for the Connexion, on Educational subjects, whether with the Government of the country or with other public bodies; and to promote and facilitate the adoption, in Wesleyan Schools, of such Regulations as shall tend to secure the greatest practical efficiency, and to preserve Connexional harmony.

2. To direct the application of any Funds which may be entrusted to their care from any sources whatsoever.

3. To superintend the selection and training of Teachers, and to recommend such Teachers to Schools, on application from Local Committees.

4. To collect information on matters relating to the general interests of Education; to correspond with the Local Committees and friends of Education, on various questions connected with Teachers, Inspectors, etc.; to promote the formation of New Schools, wherever practicable, as well as to encourage those already formed, especially by advice and friendly co-operation.

5. To prepare, from their official documents, an Annual Report of their proceedings, and of the general progress of Wesleyan Education.

III. PRINCIPLES ON WHICH WESLEYAN SCHOOLS ARE TO BE CONDUCTED.

(I.) SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

General Rules.

The General Principles recommended by the Conference of 1827 for the regulation of Wesleyan Methodist Sunday Schools shall form the permanent basis for the management of such Schools; and, in harmony therewith, the following Draft of General Rules is affectionately commended to the adoption of the Committees of our Sunday Schools throughout the Connexion. (See 1827, vol. vi. pp. 284–286; 1875, vol. xix. pp. 695, 696.)

I. Each School shall be conducted in distinct and avowed connexion with the Wesleyan Methodist Church, and shall, in every practicable way, be worked in harmony with its arrangements, and with a view to its increase and benefit.

II. Its main object shall be to instruct and train Scholars in “the doctrines, privileges, and duties of the Christian religion,” and only so much secular teaching as is necessary to secure this end shall be given in it on the Sabbath day. The Holy Scriptures and the Catechisms of the Wesleyan Methodists shall be used as the means of such instruction and training.

III. The general management shall be entrusted to a Committee, consisting—

1. Of all the Ministers of the Circuit.
2. Of the Treasurer, the General Secretary, and the Superintendents of the School, appointed as hereinafter mentioned.
3. Of six, nine, or more persons, to be chosen as follows, viz.—One-third being Members of the Wesleyan Methodist Society, by the Leaders’ Meeting, in the month of December.

One-third being Teachers, Secretaries, or Librarians, who are also Members of the Wesleyan Methodist Society, by a General Teachers' Meeting, in the month of December.

One-third by the Committee for the time being, at their last Meeting in December, from Members of the Congregation or Subscribers to the School, who, if not Members of Society, are nevertheless believed to be cordially attached to the principles and polity of Wesleyan Methodism.

IV. The Annual Meeting of the Committee and Subscribers, of which due notice shall be given by the General Secretary, shall be held as early as convenient in the month of January, to receive the financial Report and the Lists of the persons chosen, in the manner above described, to be Members of Committee for the ensuing year, and to appoint a Treasurer and Auditors for the ensuing year.

N.B.—1. Subscribers within the meaning of this Rule are those persons, not under twenty-one years of age, who contribute annually five shillings or upwards towards the support of the School.

2. Those Teachers who have attained the age of twenty-one, and have been fully received not less than one year, shall be considered as having a right to attend and take part with the Subscribers in the proceedings of the Annual Meeting.

3. When it is deemed necessary, in addition to the Annual Meeting, a Public Meeting, to promote the interests of the School and of Christian education generally, may be held at any time of the year most convenient.

V. The Superintendent Minister of the Circuit shall preside in the Annual Meeting (Rule IV.), also in all Meetings of the Committee, and in all Meetings of the Teachers. If at any one of the said Meetings the Superintendent Minister be not present, one of the other Ministers of the Circuit shall preside. If, either at an Annual Meeting or at a Meeting of the Committee, no Minister is present, the Meeting shall appoint one of the Officers of the Institution to act as its Chairman. If at any Teachers' Meeting no Minister is present, one of the Superintendents of the School shall preside (1874, vol. xix. p. 443).

VI. The Officers of the School shall be as follows, viz.—

1. A Treasurer.
2. A General Secretary, one or more Superintendents, and one or more Visitors, to be annually appointed by the Committee.
3. One or more School Secretaries, and a Librarian, to be annually chosen by the Teachers' Meeting, subject to the approval of the Committee.

N.B.—All the Officers, with the exception of the Treasurer,

shall be selected exclusively from the Members of the Wesleyan Methodist Society.

VII. The Committee shall meet at least once a quarter, and oftener, if required, with the concurrence of the Superintendent of the Circuit, and five shall form a quorum for the transaction of business.

VIII. The Teachers, wherever practicable, shall be Members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, but if not, they must at least be regular attendants at the Chapel, of good moral character, heartily attached to the Doctrines and Discipline of Methodism, and willing to observe the Rules of the School.

IX. They may be received on trial by the Superintendent of the School, and, after a probation of three months, shall be nominated by him at a regular Teachers' Meeting, and elected by the Meeting, subject, however, to the approbation of the Committee.

X. A United Meeting of the Committee and Teachers shall be held once in every six months, or oftener, if need be, on some suitable week-day evening, expressly for the recognition of newly-appointed Teachers, when the Chairman shall present the Rules, and give appropriate advice and encouragement to the Teachers thus recognised.

XI. Teachers' Meetings for inquiry, consultation, and prayer shall be held quarterly, previous to the ordinary Meetings of the Committee.

XII. In the selection of Teachers for the elder Classes, special attention shall be paid to their Christian experience; and those only shall be so employed who are able to teach the Scholars clearly and fully what they must do to be saved.

XIII. No person shall be continued as an Officer or Teacher, who shall at any time be declared by the Committee or the Leaders' Meeting, unfit, in respect of general character or of religious opinions, for the office he sustains, or for taking part in the Christian education of the young.

XIV. The elementary books employed in teaching even the younger Children shall be such as contain the largest portion of Scriptural instruction, and the Holy Scriptures shall be regularly used by all who are sufficiently advanced.

XV. Catechetical exercises shall form a constant part of the system of the School, and the Catechisms used shall be those published under the sanction of the Wesleyan Methodist Conference. See p. 243.

XVI. The School shall be opened and closed with Singing and Prayer. The Methodist *Sunday School Hymn Book*, compiled by the Sunday School Union Committee by the direction of the Conference, is now the *Connexional Sunday School Hymn Book*.

XVII. Neither the art of Writing, nor any branch of merely secular knowledge, shall be taught on the Lord's day.

XVIII. The Library, together with the School furniture, shall be the property of the Committee, without whose approval no book shall be introduced; and, wherever practicable, the distribution of books shall take place on some week-day evening, so as not to occasion, either to the Librarian or to the readers, an unnecessary and injurious diversion of any portion of the Lord's day from employments directly spiritual.

XIX. No sales of books, or of other articles used in the School, shall be allowed on the Sabbath, but suitable facilities for the supply of the Scholars shall be provided on week-days.

XX. The Meetings of the Committee, for ordinary business, shall not be held on the Lord's day, and Teachers' Meetings, if *unavoidably* so held, shall be fixed for such hours as will not interfere with attendance at Public Worship, Society Meetings, or the Lord's Supper.

XXI. All the Scholars shall be trained to regular attendance on Public Worship, at least once on the Lord's day. As many as can be accommodated shall attend the Chapel every forenoon; and the elder Scholars, especially, shall be encouraged to attend the evening service also.

N.B.—(1) The Conference resolves that, while it may be well to provide a separate service for very young Children, it is most undesirable that Scholars of eight years of age and upwards should be kept from the services in the Chapels (1885, p. 245).

(2) We earnestly entreat our friends who may be concerned in the future erection or enlargement of Chapels, to have this object in view, as one of unspeakable importance to the interests of religion and of our country, and to include in their plans the provision of large and convenient accommodation, not only for the adult poor, but for their Children also.

XXII. Whenever it is practicable, a select Class, or Classes, of those Scholars who are seriously disposed shall be formed for special religious instruction and prayer, and be met by pious Teachers in separate Class-rooms towards the close of the Sunday afternoon, or on some convenient week-night. See *Junior Society Classes*, pp. 30, 31.

N.B.—The Conference has authorised the observance of the third Sunday in October in each year as a day for Special Prayer on behalf of Sunday Schools and young people. See p. 243.

Representation of Sunday Schools in Circuit Quarterly Meetings, see p. 405. *Closing of Sunday Schools*, see p. 243.

Practical Directions for Internal Management.

1. *The Committee.*—The general duties of the Committee are to devise means for raising the necessary supplies, to disburse the Funds according to the requirements of the School, and to exercise a vigorous control over all the affairs of the Institution, in accordance with its established Rules.

N.B.—The Officers and Committee of a Band of Hope connected with a School are to be elected annually by the Sunday School Committee (1887, vol. xx. p. 516). See p. 425.

2. *The Treasurer.*—The Treasurer should receive and pay all money on account of the School, under the direction of the Committee.

3. *The Auditors.*—The Auditors should certify the accuracy of the Treasurer's accounts by affixing their names to them, after they have examined them with the vouchers.

4. *The General Secretary.*—The General Secretary should convene and attend all Meetings of the Committee or of the Subscribers, take Minutes of their proceedings, and prepare a written Report on the state of the School for the Annual Meeting.

5. *The Superintendents.*—The Superintendents are responsible for opening and closing the School with Singing and Prayer; for the admission of Scholars, and the arrangement of Classes and Teachers; and for the internal management of the School.

6. *The School Secretaries.*—The School Secretaries should take charge of the School Registers and Journal, give notice of Teachers' Meetings, both to the Superintendent or other Minister, and to the Teachers, and take Minutes of their transactions; and furnish periodical Reports of the condition of the School for the Committee.

7. *The Teachers.*—Teachers are expected to be regular and punctual in their attendance at the School, and to accompany their Classes to the house of God; and to do all in their power, both by teaching and example, to promote the great end of the institution—the religious instruction and salvation of the Scholars.

A Teacher, when prevented from attending the School, should either provide a proper Substitute, or give the Superintendents timely notice of his intended absence.

Definite arrangements should be made for the visitation of absentee Scholars, either by the Teachers themselves, or by a Visitor or Visitors duly appointed.

8. *The Scholars.*—Children, especially when coming from another School, should be admitted on the application of parents or guardians. Very young Children, and Adults, are best taught in a separate room.

9. *The Library.*—Every School should, if possible, have a Library

for the use of the Officers and Teachers, and such Scholars as may be deemed worthy of that privilege (1873, vol. xix. pp. 173-178).

(II.) DAY SCHOOLS.

I. RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION AND WORSHIP.

Such Schools shall be of a distinctively religious character; and, as practical means to realise this important purpose, the following elementary arrangements are deemed indispensable, viz.—

1. The BIBLE, in the Authorised Version only, shall be the basis of all the religious instruction; and a certain portion of every day, at least half an hour, shall be set apart for the devotional reading of the Holy Scriptures, with explanations by the Teacher, Minister, or duly appointed Visitor, or for Catechetical instruction.

2. The Authorised WESLEYAN CATECHISMS shall be used in all our Schools, subject to such provisions of the Elementary Education Act of 1870 as are commonly known collectively as “The Conscience Clause.”

3. CHRISTIAN PSALMODY—in which the Wesleyan Hymn Book, or other Hymn Book published or approved by the Wesleyan Education Committee, shall be used—shall form a part of the daily exercises.

4. The School duties of each day shall begin and end with PRAYER.

II. GOVERNMENT.

Each Day School shall be under the immediate care and direction of a Local Committee, annually appointed, which shall include the Wesleyan Ministers of the Circuit, for the time being; the Officers of the School, such as the Treasurer, Secretaries, and Visitors; and a suitable number of the friends of Education connected with our Body, either as Members of our Society, or at least as worshippers in our Chapels.¹

¹ In the case of Day Schools which are held in premises settled upon either of the School Model Deeds, the Committee must be constituted in detail as directed by the subjoined Clause of the said Deeds:—

“That the said School or Schools shall be under the immediate care, direction, and control of a Local Committee of Management, to be annually appointed as hereinafter mentioned, and which shall consist of the Ministers of the said Connexion appointed and stationed for the time being by the said yearly Conference to, and in, the Circuit of the said Connexion in which the said School or Schools and premises shall, for the time being, be situate; two Trustees for the time being of the said School-house or School-houses, or School-room or School-rooms and premises, to be annually appointed by the Trustees for the time being,

III. SUPPORT.

The pecuniary support of each School shall be provided for by the Local Committee, from the weekly payments of the Scholars, from Local Subscriptions and Collections, and from any other available sources.

IV. TEACHERS.

1. Every Teacher employed in the Schools, or trained for them, shall be of a decidedly religious character, and in connexion with the Wesleyan Methodist Society.

2. Every such Teacher shall be recommended by the Superintendent Minister of the Circuit in which he or she resides; and, previously to his or her actual nomination to a School by the General Committee of Education, shall have been examined and approved by them, or by persons deputed to examine on their behalf.

V. SCHOOL-HOUSES.

All the School-Rooms or Houses built, or to be built, for Wesleyan Schools, shall be held in trust for the Connexion, in a manner similar to the settlement of Chapel property among the Wesleyan Methodists, and in accordance with the provisions of the School Model Deed (formerly known as No. II.) adopted by the Conference in 1845.

N.B.—The recommendation of the Conference that sites for Chapels be settled on the Trusts of the Chapel Model Deed, applies to sites acquired for Day and Sunday Schools. By a regulation of the Government, no rent can be charged for the use of Premises held in trust for Educational Purposes. See pp. 315, 316.

VI. STATISTICS.

The Secretary of each School shall be requested to furnish to the General Committee, through the Superintendent of the Circuit, an Annual Report of the state of the School, as provided for by Schedules and other forms of inquiry issued by direction of the General Committee (1873, vol. xix. pp. 178, 179).

from among themselves; the Society Steward or Stewards, for the time being, of the Society of Wesleyan Methodists, in immediate connexion with the said School or Schools; and a suitable number (as circumstances may, from time to time, render expedient), being not less than six persons, to be elected and chosen at the Annual General Meeting of the subscribers to, and friends of, such School or Schools, by the annual subscribers of not less than five shillings each, to the support thereof, of which suitable number two-thirds at least shall, at the time of their appointment, be Members of the said Wesleyan Methodist Society.”—*School Model Deeds*.

The above Regulation was modified as follows :—

The Education Schedules, having been duly filled up and presented to the March Quarterly Meeting, shall be sent by the Superintendents to the District Education Secretary, not later than 20th April in each year (1889, p. 269).

In accordance with this Resolution, the District and Circuit Schedules are forwarded to the General Education Committee by the District Education Secretaries.

IV. GENERAL CONNEXIONAL AID AND CO-OPERATION.

The Rules of the Conference are as follows :—

1. The following questions shall be considered in each May District Synod, during that portion of the business of the District Committee when both Ministers and Laymen are present ; and the answers obtained shall be recorded in the Minutes of each District, viz. :—

- (1) What is the number and state of the Wesleyan Sunday and Week-Day Schools in this District ?
- (2) Are all possible care and effort used to promote the formation and success of Week-Day Schools in connexion with our Societies in this District ?
- (3) Has any Wesleyan Day School been discontinued, or transferred to other management, since the last May District Synod ; and if so, have the directions of the Conference relating thereto been observed ? (1874, vol. xix. p. 442).

2. Previously to the District Synod, the Superintendent in each Circuit, or one of his Colleagues, appointed by him, shall make timely application to the School Secretaries of each place in the Circuit where a Sunday or Week-Day School is established, for the information required for the filling-up of the Schedules provided by the General Committee ; and after filling them up and laying them before the Quarterly Meeting, shall forward them as directed by the Conference. See Regulation under vi.

3. The Education Secretary appointed by each District Synod, in accordance with the Regulations of the Conference, shall collect the Schedules, summarise the Statistics contained in them (see below, DISTRICT SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMITTEE), present to the District Synod in May a Report on the Schools of the District, and transmit the Schedules, with any Resolutions of the District Synod relating to Education, to the Secretary of the General Education Committee.

N.B.—This has been modified by the appointment of District Education Committees. It is provided that the District Education Secretary bring the Statistics of Sunday and Day Schools before this Committee, and that its Report be presented to the Synod (1875, vol. xix. p. 699; 1880, p. 235).

4. Arrangements shall be made upon each Circuit Plan for the regular Visitation of each Day School in the Circuit, by one or more of the Ministers of the Circuit, for religious instruction and catechising during the time shown to be allotted for such purposes by the time-table of each School. See p. 199 (1).

5. It is earnestly urged upon all the Societies to promote the formation of Week-Day Schools in connexion with every principal Chapel in each Circuit, and to encourage the formation of School Libraries and Bible-classes, for the explanation, illustration, and religious application of the Scriptures, whenever practicable ¹ (1873, vol. xix. pp. 179, 180).

6. The Conference expresses its opinion that, in view of the working of existing arrangements for Public Elementary Education, it is highly desirable that the number of Wesleyan Day Schools should at least be maintained. The Conference therefore strongly recommends that before any steps are taken towards the closing or transfer of any Wesleyan Day School, the proposal to close or transfer it be communicated to the Education Committee, in order that they may have an opportunity of suggesting alternative proposals for the consideration of Local Managers (1877, vol. xx. p. 408).

7. The Conference directs that in all ordinary cases of Day Schools conducted on Wesleyan Trust premises, no such Schools shall be discontinued so long as there is a reasonable prospect of their being carried on without serious embarrassment. The same general principle shall apply to Wesleyan Day Schools conducted in premises rented for the purpose under the management of a recognised Wesleyan School Committee. When, however, the discontinuance of a Day School is proposed, before such proposal is carried into effect the Superintendent shall consult the Trustees, the Managing Committee, and the Subscribers; and if in any case there is a considerable division of opinion, the case shall be submitted to the Quarterly Meeting of the Circuit. In all cases, the general principle laid down by the Conference respecting the transfer of Schools—namely, that the Superintendents of the

¹ Regulations of the Education Department respecting Government Grants to new Schools, which have been made since this Resolution was adopted by the Conference, render it specially desirable that the Secretary of the Wesleyan Education Committee should be communicated with respecting any project for opening new Public Elementary Schools.

Circuits, with the Managers and Trustees acting in concert, shall consult the Education Committee—shall be adhered to (1878, pp. 240, 241).

8. The Conference declares that it shall not be deemed to be within the power and option of a Superintendent to prevent the establishment or continuance of a Wesleyan Day School, so long as responsible parties pledge themselves to bear all the financial cost and risk (1878, p. 241).

9. (1) In view of the interpretation which is put upon section xxiii. of the Elementary Education Act of 1870 by the Lords of the Committee of Council, to the effect that any transfer of a School, settled upon our School Model Deed No. I., to a School Board, for any term whatever, for the purposes of such School Board, must be sanctioned, not only by the signatures of the Trustees, but by the Conference, testified by the President in writing, the Conference directs that in every case in which the transfer of such a School is proposed, the Superintendent, with the Managers and Trustees acting in concert, shall first consult the Education Committee on the subject, and that if, for reasons given, that Committee recommends such a transfer, the Rules of the Conference in relation to the sale of Trust Property shall be applicable thereto:—the Education Committee considering all questions affecting School management, and the Chapel Committee questions affecting Trust Property.—(2) In respect to Schools settled on the School Model Deed No. II., or on any other Deed in which the consent of the Conference is rendered necessary for the alienation of the property, the Conference recommends the Trustees to act upon the same principles as those laid down in the foregoing clause in relation to Schools settled on the School Model Deed No. I.—(3) In all cases of transfer which may hereafter occur, the Conference recommends that provision be made in the instrument of transfer to secure the resumption of the premises by the Trustees without their being required to reimburse any money laid out upon them by the School Board solely for its own purposes (1873, vol. xix. pp. 173, 181).

See *Closing and Transfer of Schools*, pp. 246, 247.

DISTRICT EDUCATION COMMITTEES.

The Conference of 1875, in order to complete the organisation of the Connexional Sunday School Union, recommended the formation of District Sunday School Committees, the object, constitution, and functions of which are set forth in the Minutes of that year (1875, vol. xix. pp. 699, 700).

Constitution of the District Education Committee.

The Committee shall consist of the Chairman of the District, the District Education Secretary (who shall act as Secretary of the Committee), two other Ministers, and four Laymen, being Members of Society, who shall be elected by the District Synod in September. One Lay Member shall retire annually by rotation. The Lay Members shall be Members of the District Synods during the transaction of Financial and Statistical Affairs (1875, vol. xix. p. 699 ; 1893, p. 319 ; 1897, p. 341).

PUPIL TEACHERS.

Among the arrangements connected with the *Elementary Day Schools* of Methodism, the training of *Pupil Teachers* claims special mention. Their progress in the various branches of general learning is tested each year by Her Majesty's Inspectors ; but the Conference has provided for an annual Examination of all Pupil Teachers in *Religious Knowledge*. The Standing Order on this subject is as follows :—

“The Conference directs that the Annual Examination of Pupil Teachers in Religious Knowledge shall be held on the last Saturday in October and on the first Saturday in March. The questions shall be prepared by the General Committee ; the Examination held, either in the several Circuits by the Superintendent Ministers or their Colleagues, or at suitable places for Central District Examinations, as may be determined by the September District Synods, and agreed to by the respective School Committees ; and the written answers shall be forwarded to the General Secretary, to be valued by a Central Board of Examiners to be elected by the General Committee (1863, vol. xv. pp. 534, 535 ; 1877, vol. xx. p. 400). The Conference recommends that, in connexion with Central Examinations, Meetings of Teachers and Pupil Teachers be held under the direction of the Chairman of the District and the District Education Secretary” (1880, pp. 263, 264).

The Education Committee publishes in the Annual Report a syllabus of the subjects for Examination, both for Candidates for the office of Pupil Teacher, and for Pupil Teachers during the several years of their probation.

TRAINING COLLEGES.

The Wesleyan Normal Institution consists of two Training Colleges, one at Westminster for young men, and one at Southlands, Battersea, for young women. These Colleges are intended primarily for the training of young persons belonging to the Wesleyan Methodist Church for the profession of Teacher in the Public Elementary Schools of the Nation.

The admission of Students is preceded by a Government Examination known as the Queen's Scholarship Examination, and only those who obtain a place in the *First* or *Second Class* are eligible to enter. There is also an Examination on the part of the Education Committee. The terms of admission, and the subjects comprehended in the Government Examination for Queen's Scholarships, are published in the "Report of the Wesleyan Education Committee." Forms of Application for both the Colleges may be obtained from the Secretary of that Committee at *The Wesleyan Training College, Westminster, S. W.* Among other things, it is expressly provided that "Candidates must be of decidedly religious character"; and if they have not passed the Annual Pupil Teachers' Examination in Religious Knowledge, they must be specially examined. The marks gained by Pupil Teachers at the Annual Examinations in Religious Knowledge are taken into account in determining the eligibility of Candidates for the Training Colleges.

Students are required, upon admission to College, to sign a declaration on a Government Form, that it is their intention, in availing themselves of the provision made by the Government, to adopt and follow the profession of Teacher in a Public Elementary School. They must further agree not to remove from any School to which they are appointed before the "Parchment Certificate" has been received, except with the consent of the Education Committee obtained through the Secretary. This Certificate is awarded by the Education Department to Teachers who have been for not less than eighteen months in

one and the same School, Training College, or Central Class for the instruction of Pupil Teachers, and have obtained a favourable report from Her Majesty's Inspector. The Government payment to the College depends on the issue of this Certificate; consequently, every Teacher trained is under an obligation to secure it as early as possible. The Committee assist, as far as possible, Students to secure appointments at the termination of their College course.

THE EDUCATION FUND.

The Education Committee, charged with the administration of the Fund, is annually appointed by the Conference, in accordance with the Regulations set forth in the Scheme for the Nomination of Connexional Committees (1882, pp. 393, 394). The Committee was enlarged in 1891, by the addition of eight Ministers and eight Laymen residing in other than the London Districts (1891, p. 297). See p. 449.

The Fund derived from Public Collections and Private Subscriptions provides, together with the Government Grants and Entrance Fees, for the maintenance of the two Training Colleges. Grants are also made from it towards the outfit of new Day Schools, and of other Schools providing new furniture, and towards the maintenance of Schools in need of financial assistance. New schools deemed "Unnecessary" (Code, Art. 80) are dealt with as exceptional cases. During the probationary period, whilst such Schools cannot receive Grants in aid from the Government, the Education Committee is empowered to make Special Grants.

A Grant is also made annually to the Connexional Sunday School Union.

MIDDLE-CLASS EDUCATION.

The earnest attention of the Wesleyan Methodist Church was called to the great importance of establishing Secondary Schools, and the subject was taken up with zeal in connexion with the great movement of the Thanksgiving Fund. An

influential Committee was appointed by the Conference of 1878 to consider the whole question; and in the following year that Committee was enlarged, and was "empowered to make appropriations, by way of Grant, or Loan, or otherwise, on account of the sum of £10,000 allotted from the Thanksgiving Fund, in aid of Middle-Class Schools," and was "further empowered to appoint five Trustees, to whom this sum, or any instalment thereof, shall be paid" (1879, p. 276). The Conference of 1880 reappointed the Committee, authorising them "to exercise the same powers and functions as were assigned to them" in the preceding year; and formally appointed the five Trustees who had been selected "to hold, invest, and apply, under the direction of the Committee, the Funds appropriated for the purpose of Middle-Class Education.

The Conference of 1875 approved a Scheme which had been formed by the Education Committee for the Establishment of Middle-Class Schools. The General Regulations for the Establishment and Working of Middle-Class Schools are printed at length in the Minutes (1875, vol. xix. pp. 694, 695).

The Conference has further resolved:—

1. The Education Committee shall have charge of Middle-Class Education. A Special Sub-Committee shall be appointed in the interests of Middle-Class Schools, which shall report to the Education Committee, and through that Committee to the Conference (1886, p. 260).

2. The Conference recommends the promoters of any projected Middle-Class School, which it is proposed to denominate a Wesleyan Methodist School, to submit to this Sub-Committee the Draft of the Trust-Deed or Articles of Association of the School, for any suggestions which the Committee may deem it desirable to make.

3. The Conference directs the Sub-Committee (i.) to consider Schemes for the establishment of such Schools when they are submitted to them, and to advise, as they may deem expedient, respecting such Schemes; (ii.) to report on such cases to the Conference; (iii.) to act on behalf of the Conference, in the cases referred to, in the interval between one Conference and another; (iv.) to present to the Conference annually any suggestions for the promotion of the interests of Methodist Middle-Class Schools (1883, p. 234).

The following is a list of Wesleyan Methodist Middle-Class Schools established under the direction of the Middle-Class Education Committee :—

Cornwall School Association : School for Boys at Truro.

Cornwall Girls' School Association : Schools at Penzance and Camborne.

Western Counties School Association : School for Boys at Trowbridge.

Jersey Ladies' College : St. Helier's, Jersey.

Kent School Association : School for Boys at Canterbury, and for Girls at Folkestone.

East Anglian School Association : School for Boys at Bury St. Edmunds.

Cheshire and North Staffordshire Association : Victoria College, Congleton, School for Boys.

Woodhouse Grove : Apperley Bridge, near Leeds, School for Boys.

Queenswood : School for Girls at 4 King's Road, Clapham Park, London, S.W.

Bromyard, Worcestershire : School for Girls.

The ordinary charge for Board and Education in the above Schools is about Thirty Pounds per annum.

The Annual Reports of the Directors of the twelve Schools now under the charge of the Middle-Class Schools Committee show that they are in all respects in a very encouraging condition. Numerous instances of distinguished success in Competitive Examinations are recorded, and the general educational results are of a most satisfactory character.

Middle-Class Schools in relation to the Science and Art Department.

A recent decision of the Science and Art Department is of great importance to Wesleyan Middle-Class and other Proprietary Schools.

In the "Science and Art Directory" (1897) it is provided that "Schools managed by a public Company in the Articles of Association of which provision is made that no dividend shall be paid exceeding 5 per cent. per annum, are not considered as conducted for private profit." The Middle-Class Schools Committee has therefore recommended that in the Articles of Association a clause should be inserted to the effect that the dividend is limited to 5 per cent. per annum. In most cases a clause was already inserted. This enables the Schools to earn Grants from the Science and Art Department.

HIGHER EDUCATION.

The first great movement in the direction of Higher Education was the establishment of *Wesley College, Sheffield*. This was effected mainly through the indefatigable exertions of the late Rev. Samuel D. Waddy, D.D., who was for eighteen years its efficient Governor. The next establishment of this kind was the *Wesleyan Collegiate Institution at Taunton* (now known as the *Queen's College, Taunton*), which has also a very honourable history. Both these are Proprietary Institutions; but the Trust-Deed of each has been framed with a view to secure its Wesleyan Methodist character. In the Trust-Deed of Wesley College it is expressly provided that the religious doctrines taught shall be those contained in the standard *Sermons* of Mr. Wesley, and his *Notes on the New Testament*; and that the Governor shall be a Minister annually appointed by the Conference. The Chairman of the Sheffield District, and four of the Superintendents of the Sheffield Circuits (inclusive of the Chairman if he should be stationed in Sheffield), are Members of the Committee; and the President of the Conference has the right to visit the College at all convenient times, so as not to interfere with the other regulations thereof, and to attend any Meeting of the Committee. In the case of Taunton, the President of the Conference

has the right of visiting it at all convenient times, so as not to interfere with the other arrangements thereof. The Conference also appoints two of the Directors.

In addition to the above, among the Wesleyan Proprietary Establishments, are:—Dunheved College, Launceston; The College, Harrogate; and Penrhos College, Colwyn Bay. There are also a large number of private schools closely connected with the Wesleyan Methodist Church conducted by gentlemen and ladies of culture and large experience in tuition.

The Leys School, Cambridge.

In 1785 a Scheme was submitted to the Conference for the establishment of a School to provide high-class education, the religious teaching of which should be in accordance with Wesleyan Methodism. The Scheme was directly approved by the Conference, and the late Rev. William F. Moulton, M.A., D.D., was appointed the Governor and Head Master. This School does not belong to any Proprietary Body, but has been established on the system of having Life Donors and Donors, who are entitled to certain nominations of pupils. It has been conveyed to Trustees, to be held on the Scheme of Trusts sanctioned by the Conference. Among other things, it is provided that the President, the ex-President, and the Secretary of the Conference shall be, *ex officio*, Members of the Governing Body; that three other Members shall be elected by the Wesleyan Education Committee, two by the officers of the Branches of the Wesleyan Theological Institution, one by the resident Masters, and eleven by the Life Donors. The entire Scheme of the Constitution and Management of the Leys School is given in Appendix xii. to the Minutes of the Conference of 1875 (vol. xix. pp. 802–811).

CHAPTER XI

THE CONNEXIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION—DISTRICT SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMITTEES—PROVINCIAL CENTRES OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION—CIRCUIT SUNDAY SCHOOL UNIONS—REPRESENTATION OF SUNDAY SCHOOLS IN CIRCUIT QUARTERLY MEETINGS—THE WESLEY GUILD—RELIGIOUS KNOWLEDGE CERTIFICATES—ALLAN LIBRARY—METHODIST SETTLEMENT IN LONDON.

THE subject of the formation of a *Connexional Sunday School Union* was carefully considered by the Conference of 1873, on the presentation of certain recommendations of the Education Committee. The desirableness of such an Institution, and the objects to which it should be directed, were affirmed by that Conference; and the draft of arrangements for its constitution and working, which had been prepared by the Education Committee, was *provisionally* approved. It was ordered, however, that this draft should be submitted to the several Financial District Synods in Great Britain, and that their suggestions should be carefully considered by the Education Committee. The President, also, was authorised "to convene a Special Meeting of Ministers and Laymen to consider the Scheme after its final revision" by that Committee. That Meeting was held; and a Report of its proceedings, and various Resolutions relating to the proposed Union submitted by the Education Committee, were presented to the Conference of 1874. After these preliminary consultations, that Conference agreed to the formation of a

Connexional Sunday School Union, which should be under the general management of the Education Committee, in such manner as it might determine, in harmony with the following plan :—

CONNEXIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION.

The Conference agrees to the formation of a Connexional Sunday School Union, which shall be under the general management of the Education Committee.

Objects of the Union.

1. That the OBJECTS of the Connexional Sunday School Union shall be as follows :—

(i.) To promote the development of the Sunday School system, with the special design of securing greater spiritual results, and the gathering of Sunday Scholars into the Wesleyan Methodist Society.

(ii.) To promote a closer sympathy and relationship between the School, the Society, and the Ministry.

(iii.) To promote union and co-operation among Wesleyan Methodist Sunday Schools in the several Circuits, and to encourage the Connexional element in the character and working of such Schools.

(iv.) To promote the establishment of Wesleyan Methodist Sunday Schools, and the formation of Circuit Unions, wherever practicable.

(v.) To supply Teachers with such aid and information as shall tend to the more efficient instruction of their Classes.

(vi.) To collect and give information respecting the best methods for the organisation and management of Wesleyan Methodist Sunday Schools.

(vii.) To obtain, record, and supply statistical details as to the condition of our Sunday Schools.

(viii.) To render aid in the supply of suitable School-books and appliances, and of books for rewards and libraries.

(ix.) To promote such other purposes as experience and observation may, in the future, suggest for the benefit of the Sunday Schools of the Connexion.

2. That it is desirable to establish in connexion with the Union, as soon as convenient, a Connexional Central Agency, provided with sale and show-rooms, library, reading-room, and other appliances, in some suitable locality in or near the City, besides a warehousing and wholesale department at the Book-Room.

3. That it is also desirable to establish, as may be found practicable (i.) *Sub-Centres* of the Union in Metropolitan districts, which may include provision for Teachers' reading-rooms and libraries, and model-lessons; and (ii.) *Provincial Centres*, which may include Teachers' reading-rooms and libraries, provision for model-lessons, and depôts for the sale of Sunday School publications.

4. That the Union shall be empowered to make grants in aid of the outfit of such Sub-Centres and Provincial Centres.

5. That the Union shall direct special attention to the preparation and provision of Sunday School Lesson-books and general Sunday School literature, periodical and otherwise.

6. That the Union shall supply books, stationery, and apparatus suited to Sunday Schools, at reduced prices.

7. That the publications of the Connexional Sunday School Union shall be under the direction of a Sub-Committee of the Education Committee, in the constitution of which Sub-Committee the Book Steward and the Connexional Editor shall be included as *ex officio* Members, together with certain selected Members of the Book Committee; also, that in conjunction with the Secretary of the Education Committee, or any Minister who may be appointed by the Conference to act as the Secretary to the Sunday School Union, the Connexional Editor shall be responsible to the Conference for the publications of the Union, and shall be regarded as representing this department in the Book Committee.

8. The Conference approves the following arrangements which have been agreed upon between the Education Committee and the Book Committee, viz. :—

That inasmuch as the proportion of new business which the Connexional Sunday School Union will bring to the Book-Room cannot be ascertained at present, it is inexpedient to conclude a permanent agreement between the Union and the Book Committee; but that until the Conference of 1876 the Connexional Sunday School Union shall be entitled, upon all sales at its Central Depôt, both of such Books as are the property of the Book-Room, and of all other Books, to discounts agreed upon; together with a contribution, at a prescribed rate, upon the annual amount of Book-Room sales of Sunday School publications and supplies of books to Sunday Schools, so far as that amount shall exceed that of such sales and supplies for the year ending Midsummer 1873.¹

¹ Certain modifications of the business arrangements between the Book-Room and the Sunday School Union were the subject of careful and lengthened consideration on the part of the Book Committee and the Education Committee, in the early part of the year 1880, and were ultimately agreed upon.

9. The Conference resolves that admission to the advantages of the Union shall be by subscription : (1) On the part of separate Schools of a minimum payment of five shillings ; (2) On the part of Circuit Unions for connected Schools, of a minimum average payment of four shillings per School per annum in Unions containing not less than five such Schools. Schools subscribing, either separately or through their Circuit Unions, shall be entitled to library grants, and such other advantages as the Union can afford.

10. The Conference empowers the Connexional Sunday School Union to promote the occasional holding of meetings for conference on Sunday Schools topics in convenient centres.

11. The Conference adopts the following Proposals, which have been submitted to it by the Education Committee :—

(i.) That a Minister be appointed to act under the direction of the Education Committee in the visitation of Day and Sunday Schools, and as the Secretary of the Connexional Sunday School Union.

(ii.) That the Education Committee shall appoint a lay Assistant Secretary, to act under the direction of the Secretary in the work of the Union, whose duties shall include Sub-editorial work, attention to Union finance, Sunday School statistics, correspondence, and oversight of the Central Agency.

12. The Conference sanctions an application to the Connexion for the funds required to defray the initial expenses of the Union, including the outfit of the Central Agency ; and anticipates that the subsequent annual cost of such an agency, and the annual expenditure of the Union, will be provided for by a Fund to be derived from the following sources : (1) Subscriptions of School Committees, Sunday School Unions, and of private friends ; (2) an annual grant from the General Education Fund ; (3) any profits which may accrue from the sales of the Central Agency ; and (4) payments from the Book Committee in accordance with the arrangements between it and the Education Committee already adopted by the Conference.

13. The Conference directs that a separate account of income and expenditure on behalf of the Connexional Sunday School Union shall be kept, and be annually published by the Education Committee.

The Conference commends the Connexional Sunday School Union to the hearty sympathy of the Ministers and of the Connexion at large, and trusts that such co-operation and financial support will be afforded to this undertaking as will contribute to render it of much advantage to the Sunday School work of the Connexion (1874, vol. xix. pp. 438-440).

DISTRICT SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMITTEES.

The subject of *District Sunday School Committees* has been adverted to in the preceding Chapter of this work; but the functions assigned to them have so intimate a relation to the Connexional Sunday School Union, that it will be convenient to give in this place the Minutes, *in extenso*, respecting them:—

To complete the Organisation of the Connexional Sunday School Union, the Conference recommends the formation of District Sunday School Committees, the Object, Constitution, and Functions of which shall be as follows:

1. *Object*.—To promote the interests of the Wesleyan Sunday Schools of the District, in harmony with the Plans of the Connexional Sunday School Union.

2. *Constitution*.—The Committee shall consist of the Chairman of the District, the District Education Secretary (who shall act as Secretary of the Committee), another Minister, and four Laymen, being Members of Society, who shall be elected by the District Synod in September. One Lay Member shall retire annually by rotation. The Lay Members shall be Members of the District Synod during the transaction of Financial and Statistical Affairs.

In the constitution of this Committee, due regard shall be had to Provincial Centres and Circuit Unions which may exist in the District, and to the securing of the services of Ministers and Laymen who have taken an active interest in Sunday School work.

3. *Functions*.—(1) To meet before, or during, the sittings of the District Synod in May; to receive, through the District Education Secretary, the Circuit Sunday School Schedules and Reports, and the Reports and Balance-sheets of the Provincial Centres and Book Depôts; to report thereon, and on the Sunday School work of the District generally, to the District Synod, and to make such suggestions to it as they may think desirable.

(2) To act during the year as a District Branch Committee of the Connexional Sunday School Union; to further the objects contemplated in the Union Scheme, including measures for securing better spiritual results, the formation of Provincial Centres and Circuit Unions, and “the occasional holding of meetings for conference on Sunday School topics.” Such action shall be taken only after consultation with the Superintendents of the Circuits

concerned, and in concert with the respective Committees of any Provincial Centres, or Circuit Unions, which may exist, and whose interests may be affected.

(3) To render such aid as may be advisable in Competitive Examinations of Teachers and Scholars (1875, vol. xix. p. 699; 1893, p. 319).

The functions of Sunday School Committees were enlarged by the Conference of 1880. It is now directed that they "shall have charge also of the interests of the Day Schools in their respective Districts" (1880, p. 235).

PROVINCIAL CENTRES OF THE CONNEXIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION.

The Conference of 1875 adopted also the following recommendations of the Education Committee, in reference to the Committee of Management of *Provincial Centres of the Connexional Sunday School Union* :—

1. The electing body of the Committee of Management shall consist of the Ministers of all the Circuits included in the area of the operations of the Centre; and a Representative chosen by the Committee of each Sunday School connected with the Union in these Circuits. This electing body shall be convened annually by the existing Committee of the Centre.

2. The Committee of Management shall consist of not fewer than ten persons, the number to be decided by the electing body. The Superintendent Ministers of Circuits connected with the Centre shall be *ex-officio* Members of the Committee, one of whom shall act as its Chairman. The rest of the Committee shall be elected, in such manner as the electing body shall determine, from among the other Circuit Ministers and resident Members of the Wesleyan Methodist Society, whom the electing body consider most likely to manage the various interests of the Centre with efficiency. The Committee of the Centre, as thus formed, shall, at its first meeting, elect a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, a Ministerial and a Lay Secretary, and a Treasurer; and shall appoint such Sub-Committees of Finance, etc., as may be deemed desirable. A proportion of the Centre Committee (to be fixed by the electing body) shall retire annually, the retiring Members to be eligible for re-election. The Committee shall decide when and where its meetings shall be held, and what number of its Members shall form a quorum. The electing body

shall annually appoint two Auditors of all accounts of the Centre, including those of the *Depôt* or Agency ; but such Auditors shall not be Members of the Centre Committee. The Managing Committee of each Centre shall prepare an Annual Report of its proceedings, and forward it, with the Balance-sheet or Balance-sheets as audited, to the District Sunday School Committee (1875, vol. xix. p. 700).

CIRCUIT SUNDAY SCHOOL UNIONS.

The subject of Circuit Sunday School Unions engaged the attention of the Conference of 1869 ; and a Draft of Rules prepared by the Education Committee was ordered to be sent to every Superintendent Minister in Great Britain, who, after consultation with his Colleagues, was to return it with his observations to the Education Committee. After careful deliberation on the part of that Committee, the revised Draft was submitted to the Conference of 1870, and adopted by it. The Scheme is as follows :—

The Conference approves the following Scheme for the formation of Wesleyan Methodist Sunday School Circuit Unions ; and affectionately commends it to the adoption of the Committees of our Sunday Schools throughout the Connexion :—

OBJECTS.

The objects of this Union shall be—

1. To establish mutual intercourse amongst the Officers and Teachers of the Schools in town and country.
2. To promote the opening of new, and the extension and improvement of existing Schools.
3. To circulate information relative to the organisation and discipline of Schools, as well as the best methods of instruction.
4. To collect statistics, and report interesting particulars and instances of usefulness.
5. To stimulate and encourage those who are engaged in the religious education of the young in the Circuit to seek greater spiritual results of their labours.

RULES.

1. All Officers, Teachers, and Members of Committees in connexion with the Wesleyan Methodist Sunday Schools in the Circuit, shall be considered Members of this Union.

2. The business of the Union shall be conducted and its funds administered by a Committee, to be constituted as follows :—

The Ministers of the Circuit (one of whom shall preside in all meetings), the Circuit Stewards, a Treasurer, two Secretaries, the School Superintendents and Secretaries of Committees, with one School Secretary and two Teachers from each of the town Schools, and one School Secretary and one Teacher from each of the country Schools ; such Secretaries and Teachers to be annually chosen by the respective Teachers' Meetings. All must be Members of the Wesleyan Methodist Society.

The Secretaries of each School shall be responsible for forwarding the names and addresses of the Members of the Committee elected to act on behalf of the School to the Secretaries of the Union Committee.

3. The Treasurer and Secretaries of the Union Committee, and a Deputation to visit the Schools, shall be elected by the Members of that Committee, at the first meeting in each year.

4. The Committee shall meet at least twice a year, to receive the Reports of the Deputation.

5. All the Schools in the Union shall be visited at least twice in the year by the Deputation, who shall ascertain from the Secretary of each School the number of Teachers and of Scholars, with the average attendance of both ; the number of Teachers and of Scholars who are Members of Society, and the number of Scholars in Select Classes ; whether the School regularly attends Divine worship on the Sabbath ; to what extent the Conference Catechisms and Scripture Lessons are used ; and the state of the Library.

It shall also be the duty of the Deputation to present a Report as to the books used in the Schools, the modes of instruction employed, and the general order and efficiency of the Schools.

6. An Aggregate Meeting of the Members and Friends of the Union shall be held at least once a year for mutual encouragement and improvement, at which a general Report of the state of the Schools shall be presented, instances of usefulness shall be detailed, and addresses delivered suited to the occasion. When thought desirable, the preparation of papers or addresses, on given subjects, shall be requested previously.

7. The Officers of each School shall furnish the Secretaries of the Union with such statistical and other information as they may require to complete the Annual Report of the Union, not later than a fortnight before the Aggregate Meeting.

8. Any expenses that may be incurred by the Union shall be defrayed by each School contributing its quota, or by private Subscription (1870, vol. xviii. pp. 144-146).

REPRESENTATION OF SUNDAY SCHOOLS IN CIRCUIT QUARTERLY MEETINGS.

1. No one who is not a Member of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of at least three years' continuous standing shall be *ex officio*, or eligible to be elected as, a Representative from a Sunday School to the Circuit Quarterly Meeting.

2. The Senior Superintendent of every Sunday School shall be a Member *ex officio* of the Quarterly Meeting.

N.B.—Where there are more Superintendents than one, should any difficulty arise as to which Superintendent should be counted the Senior, the point may be determined at the Meeting when the election of Representatives takes place. The word "Senior" is intended to refer to seniority as Superintendent of the School, not to seniority in age.

3. In Schools with an average attendance of one hundred to three hundred Scholars, in addition to the *ex-officio* Representative, a special Representative shall be chosen from the Teachers and Officers of the School at the Annual Teachers' Meeting.

4. In Schools with an average attendance of three hundred Scholars and upwards, a second special Representative shall be elected in like manner. The special Representative or Representatives shall be elected annually, the same person being eligible for re-election.

5. Where there are two Sessions, the average attendance shall be that for the larger Session, as given in the official Returns for the year preceding that in which the election is made.

6. Only Members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church shall vote for Representatives. Should any School Superintendent not be a Member of the Church, the Teachers and Officers of the School may, at the Annual Teachers Meeting, elect some other person from among their own number as a Representative, who is duly qualified in respect of his Membership.

7. The time and place of the Meeting when Representatives are elected shall be fixed in consultation with the Superintendent Minister, either he or one of his Colleagues being in the chair; and in the event of a Circuit Minister not being present, the Chairman shall be elected by the Meeting, such Chairman being a Member of the Church (1894, pp. 313, 314).

THE WESLEY GUILD.

The Conference of 1894 appointed a Committee to consider—

1. What steps should be taken in order to secure the extension of the work of God among the "Youth of Methodism," and in order to retain yet larger numbers of them in our Church.

2. The desirability of instituting a distinct branch of work among our Young People, which, while devising its own scope of operations, should utilise all the best points secured by the Epworth League, the Junior Epworth League, Boys' Brigade, Bands of Hope, Christian Endeavour Societies, and Mutual Improvement Societies (1894, p. 321).

The Conference of 1895 received the Report, and directed that the Scheme prepared by the Committee be submitted to the Annual Synods in Great Britain for their consideration (1895, p. 322).

The following Conference adopted the Constitution of the proposed Wesley Guild, and directed that it be printed in the Minutes (1896, p. 320, and pp. 447-457).

N.B.—Sections printed in *italics* embody the essential features of the Scheme, unalterable except by the consent of the Conference. Sections in the ordinary type are recommended, but subject to such minor modifications as local necessity may require.

I. GENERAL CONSTITUTION.

I. NAME.

The "Wesley Guild."

II. OFFICERS.

The Officers of the General Guild shall be :—

President, The President of the Conference.

<i>Four Vice - Presidents</i> , two	}	Elected by the Conference annually. The Central Council may nominate to the Conference.
Ministers and two Laymen,		
<i>Secretary</i> ,		
<i>Treasurer</i> ,		

III. CENTRAL COUNCIL.

The Governing Body of the Guild shall be a Central Council, consisting of—

1. The above Officers.
2. The Secretary of the Connexional Sunday School Union.
3. Not less than twenty others, Ministers and Laymen in equal

numbers (women being eligible for election), elected annually by the Conference. The Central Council may nominate to the Conference.

4. One Representative elected annually by each District Council of the Guild.

IV. ANNUAL REPORTS.

An Annual Report of the work of the Guild shall be prepared by the Secretary, and, after approval by the Central Council, shall be submitted to the Conference. A Financial Report shall be presented in like manner by the Treasurer.

V. ANNUAL MEETING.

A Central Festival shall be held annually, for the furtherance of the work of the Guild.

VI. DISTRICT AND PROVINCIAL COUNCILS.

A Council shall be formed for each Synodal District. It shall also be competent for groups of towns or villages to appoint Local Councils for mutual help and consultation, the promotion of local conferences and united gatherings. The constitution of such Local Councils shall be drafted by the Central Council.

VII. EXPENSES.

The expenses of the General Guild shall be met—

1. By voluntary contributions.
2. By subscriptions from the Local Guilds, consisting of the net proceeds of one lecture, musical evening, or other gathering held during the year for the benefit of the Central Fund.

VIII. MOTTOES, CARDS, AND BADGES.

These shall be decided from time to time by the Central Council.

IX. GUILD MAGAZINE OR PAPER.

A Magazine in the interests of this work shall be published by the Council through the Book-Room.

X. ALTERATION OF CONSTITUTION.

No essential change shall be made in the General Constitution without the consent of Conference.

II. LOCAL CONSTITUTION.

I. NAME.

The Wesley Guild, — — Branch.

II. DEFINITION.

A Wesley Guild is a Young People's Society, closely linked to the Church, holding weekly or periodical meetings for devotional, literary, and social purposes, and centring around itself various branches of Young People's work.

III. ESSENTIALS.

The essentials of a Wesley Guild, more fully described in the following Regulations, are—

1. *The Pledges.*
2. *The Devotional Meeting.*
3. *The Association with the Guild of some definite form of active Christian service.*
4. *Affiliation to the Central Guild.*

IV. AIM.

The main principle is comradeship in the highest aims of life; and its objects, briefly stated, are—

1. To awaken and deepen the Christian life in the Young People of the Congregation and Sunday School.
2. To form and strengthen such associations and agencies as will be helpful to the Church.
3. To link together the various departments of Christian work in which Young People are engaged.
4. To provide for the oversight of Young People by Young People, especially in welcoming those newly settled in a neighbourhood, and in following with letters of recommendation those who remove.
5. To provide facilities for social and friendly intercourse and literary improvement in harmony with the above objects.

V. MEMBERSHIP.

The Guild shall comprise Active, Companion, and Associate Members.

Active Members of the Guild are Young People who are *Members of the Church*, and wishful to help others.

Companion Members of the Guild are Young People of the Congregation or Sunday School, who wish to join any Section of the Guild and who are in sympathy with its spirit of friendship and service.

Associate Members of the Guild. Older workers and friends who are in sympathy with the movement.

VI. PLEDGES.

Active Member's Pledge—

I will earnestly endeavour, in the strength of Christ, to live a truly Christian life, to daily read the Holy Scriptures, and to attend to the duty of private prayer. I will attend my Class with regularity, and fulfil to the best of my ability my duties as a Member of the Christian Church. Whenever possible, I will be present at the Devotional Meeting of the Guild, and take an active part in the proceedings, if desired.

Companion Member's Pledge—

I will try to avoid in my daily life anything that would bring discredit upon myself or upon the Church of Christ, and will do my best to maintain the friendly spirit of the Guild.

VII. AGE LIMIT.

No Member shall be received under fifteen years of age. All under that age shall join the Junior Guild.

VIII. OFFICERS.

President, One of the Circuit Ministers.

Vice-Presidents, of whom there may be one for each department, shall be elected annually by the Members of the Guild.

Treasurer,
General Secretary, } to be elected annually by the Members of the
Roll Secretary, } Guild.

All the above Officers shall be Members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

IX. EXECUTIVE.

The Executive shall consist of—

1. The Officers of the Guild.
2. Three or six persons to be elected annually, one-third by the Leaders' Meeting, one-third by the Sunday School Teachers' Meeting, and one-third by the Members of the Guild, such persons being Members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, and in known sympathy with young people's work.
3. The Leaders of Junior Society Classes.
4. One Representative of each Section, elected annually at a United Meeting of the Members of the Guild and of its affiliated Sections, such persons being Members of the Guild.

X. GUILD MEETINGS.

1. *Devotional Meetings of the Guild.*(i.) *Monthly Devotional Meeting.*

This shall be a meeting for praise, prayer, and testimony, at which, if possible, one of the Ministers shall preside.

The Roll of Guild Members shall be read, and each Active Member shall be expected, not only to answer to his name, but to be willing to take part, by either prayer or brief testimony, or at least by reciting a verse of Scripture or of a hymn.

The names of new Members proposed shall be read by the Look-out Secretary, and they shall be received and welcomed by the Members rising or holding up a hand.

Any Active Member unable to be present shall, if practicable, send a message by some other Member.

Companion Members of the Guild shall be heartily encouraged to be present.

(ii.) The Class Meeting is the recognised Weekly Devotional Meeting for all Active Members of the Guild, and is included in their Pledge.

(iii.) A Weekly Guild Prayer Meeting is very helpful, and may be held before the Sunday Evening Service.

2. Plans for Weekly Meetings.

(i.) Rotation of Meetings.

(a) Monthly Devotional Meeting.

(b) Literary Meeting.

(c) Social and Musical Evening.

(d) Bible Reading, Literary Meeting or Lecture.

(ii.) Meetings following the order of Departments.

(a) Worship : Devotional Meeting.

(b) Mental Culture : Literary Meeting or Lecture.

(c) Christian Service : Temperance, Missionary Evening, etc.

(d) Recreation : Musical Evening.

(iii.) Meetings wholly Spiritual in character, the Social and Literary Departments being provided for in other ways.

(a) Devotional Meeting.

(b) Prayer Meeting.

(c) Bible Reading.

(d) Prayer Meeting.

(iv.) In small country villages, where workers are few, a Monthly Meeting may suffice.

(a) First month : Devotional Meeting.

- (b) Second month : Social and Musical Evening.
- (c) Third month : Lecture, Literary or Temperance Evening, etc., or a Monthly Devotional Evening, with occasional Musical and Social gatherings.

3. Notes.

- (i.) The objects of the Social and Musical Evening shall be—
 - (a) To give the Minister and others an opportunity for conversation and friendly intercourse with the Members of the Guild.
 - (b) To enable the Secretaries of the different Sections to canvass for new workers.
 - (c) To afford the Look-out Committee a chance of introducing new Members to suitable friends.
- (ii.) A Business Meeting should, if possible, be held once a quarter, to receive Reports from the Sections and to consider the various aspects of the work of the Guild.

XI. LOOK-OUT COMMITTEE.

A Look-out Committee for the specific oversight of Young People is an essential feature of the Guild.

Among its duties are the following :—

1. To look after Young People who are not members, with a view to their joining the Guild.
2. To be on the “look-out” for new-comers to the neighbourhood and congregation.
3. To introduce new-comers to the Minister and Officers of the Guild.
4. To invite such, if suitable, to a Class Meeting.
5. To enlist them in some branch of Christian work.
6. To follow with letters of recommendation those who remove to other places.

XII. DEPARTMENTS AND SECTIONS.

The Sections may be either Societies already in existence, and, with the approval of their Members, affiliated to the Guild, or new branches of work initiated by the Executive of the Guild, and under its direct control.

With the exception of the Devotional Meeting and the Look-out Committee, the Sections are not essential to the Guild, though in the majority of cases some, at least, will be found helpful.

The following classification of branches suitable for affiliation is suggested for selection, but considerable elasticity in this respect will be allowed to the Local Guilds :—

1. Department of Worship and Devotion.
 - (i.) Devotional Meeting.
 - (ii.) Guild Prayer Meeting.
 - (iii.) Bible and Prayer Union.
2. Department of Christian Service.
 - (i.) Look-out Committee.
 - (ii.) Mission Band.
 - (iii.) Cottage Services.
 - (iv.) Open-air Mission.
 - (v.) Flower Mission.
 - (vi.) Zenana Busy Bee.
 - (vii.) Young People's Missionary Auxiliary.
 - (viii.) Tract Distribution.
 - (ix.) Temperance, Anti-Gambling, and other Social Work.
 - (x.) Penny Bank.
 - (xi.) Junior Guild.
3. Department of Mental Culture.
 - (i.) Literary Committee.
 - (ii.) Theological Class.
 - (iii.) Reading Circles.
 - (iv.) Reading-Room.
 - (v.) Recreative Evening Schools.
 - (vi.) Choral Societies.
4. Department of Recreation.
 - (i.) Social and Musical Committee.
 - (ii.) Boys' Brigade.
 - (iii.) Athletic Clubs : Cricket, Cycling, Swimming, etc.
 - (iv.) Rambling Societies : Natural History, Geology, Architecture, etc.
 - (v.) Holiday Excursions.
 - (vi.) Lads' Clubs.
 - (vii.) Girls' Clubs.

XIII. ANNUAL GUILD FESTIVAL.

Once a year a Guild Festival shall be held, to include the following features :—

1. *A Public Meeting to bring the work of the Guild and its Sections before the whole Church and Congregation.*

2. *A Service for the Recognition of Members of the Guild who have been received into the Church during the year. The Quarterly or Annual Service for the Recognition of New Members of the Church might be arranged for at such a time as to include the above.*

3. *The raising of Local Funds for carrying on the work of the Guild.*

THE JUNIOR GUILD.

I. NAME.

The Junior Wesley Guild, ——— Branch.

II. MEMBERSHIP.

All Members of Junior Society Classes, and others under fifteen, shall be eligible for Membership.

III. PLEDGE.

As a Junior Member of the Guild, I will pray and read my Bible every day, and will try to live a Christian life.

IV. COMMITTEE.

The Committee shall consist of the Leaders of Junior Society Classes, who shall represent the Junior Guild as a working section upon the Local Guild Executive.

V. UNITED MEETINGS.

United Meetings shall be held once a month, or twice a quarter.

The Junior Leaders may preside in turn, another giving a short address, and the children bringing passages of Scripture on some subject decided beforehand.

Once a quarter the United Meeting shall be of a Social and Musical character.

VI. LOOK-OUT COMMITTEE.

A Look-out Committee shall be formed of the boys and girls themselves, to invite and introduce new Members, and to help in arranging the United Meetings.

VII. SECTIONS.

These will be such Societies as will help to awaken among the Members a spirit of kindness and service. Each should be under the special direction of one Member of the Committee. The following short list will serve for illustration :—

- (i.) Look-out Committee.
- (ii.) Bible and Prayer Union.
- (iii.) Young People's Reading Circles.
- (iv.) Busy Bees.

(v.) Flower Missions.

(vi.) Bands of Mercy.

(vii.) Bands of Hope.

For Pleasant Sunday Afternoons, see p. 215.

RELIGIOUS KNOWLEDGE EXAMINATION FOR CONFERENCE CERTIFICATES.

On the Recommendation of the Committee, the following was adopted as a tentative Scheme for three years:—

1. That a Board, consisting of the Theological, Biblical, and Classical Tutors of the Theological Institution, the Secretary of the Sunday School Union, with twelve other Ministers to be annually chosen by the Conference, be appointed for the purpose of indicating a Course of Study for our Young People over eighteen years of age, with a view to an Annual Examination, and to make the necessary arrangements for the Examinations. To save expense, it is suggested that a Board might meet during the Sessions of Conference.

2. That a Certificate for efficiency be adopted.

3. That the Superintendent, or one of his Colleagues, should be requested to take charge of the Examination in any Circuit in which there are Candidates, and forward the papers to the Examination Secretaries.

The Conference provisionally approved the Scheme in its general outline and principles; and appointed a Committee to consider the details, and also the financial arrangements for carrying out the Scheme, and to report to the next Conference (1892, pp. 316, 317).

At the Conference of 1893 it was resolved:—

1. That a Committee should be appointed (*a*) to select subjects for the Annual Examination, and prepare a Course of Reading; (*b*) to choose Examiners; (*c*) to make the necessary arrangements for the Examination in the Circuits; and (*d*) to grant Certificates in one or more divisions.

2. That the subjects for examination be Holy Scripture, Theology, and Methodist Church History and Polity.

3. That the expenses for the year (which shall not exceed £30) be borne equally by the Home Mission Fund and the Connexional Sunday School Union.

4. That no person under eighteen years of age be eligible for examination (1893, p. 322).

Since the year 1893, the Conference annually appointed the

Committee and determined the subjects for examination, until the year 1898, when the Conference resolved as follows :—

1. As the Examination for Local Preachers, conducted under the direction of the District Local Preachers' Committee, meets the want for which this Examination was primarily intended, there is no longer the same need for this work.
2. As nearly all the Candidates for Religious Knowledge Certificates are Sunday School Teachers or Senior Scholars, an Examination for them can be better provided by the Connexional Sunday School Union; and the Conference refers this part of the work to the Committee of that Union.
3. The Committee is discharged (1898, p. 249).

THE ALLAN LIBRARY.

“The Conference, having heard from the Rev. Dr. Rigg of the munificent offer of a gentleman, who did not, at least in the first instance, wish his name to be divulged, to present to the Conference for the use of Wesleyan Ministers a very large and valuable Theological Library, desires to record its high pleasure in receiving the communication, and gratefully and respectfully accepts the generous gift” (1884, p. 277).

“The Conference directs that its sincere and respectful acknowledgments be forthwith transmitted to the Donor in a letter signed by the President and Secretary of the Conference. A letter acknowledging this communication having been received from the Donor, the Conference directs that it be entered in the Journal and printed in the Minutes of the Conference.” The following is the Letter :—

REV. AND DEAR SIRS,—

I am much gratified by your kind letter informing me that the Conference had done me the favour to accept the Collection of Books which I had much pleasure in offering to them.

It will be a satisfaction to me to know that the Collection is now in the best hands, and safely lodged under the ownership of the Conference, and I trust that its Members will find much enjoyment in the use of it.

Allow me also to express my best acknowledgments for the kind way in which the President and the Secretary of the Conference

have communicated to me the Resolution of the Conference, and I remain, Rev. and Dear Sirs, yours truly and respectfully,

T. R. ALLAN.

26th July 1884.

To the Rev. the President of the Conference
and the Rev. the Secretary of the Conference (1884, p. 278).

Access to the Library.—In the first place, all Ministers and Preachers on Trial whose names appear on the printed Minutes shall have right of access to the Library when so established, subject to such Regulations as shall hereafter be determined.

Persons other than Ministers shall also be admitted to the benefit of the Library, under such Regulations as shall hereafter be determined (1884, p. 279 ; also 1885, p. 270).

Terms of Membership.—It is suggested that the Library and Reading-Room should be open to Wesleyan Ministers and Local Preachers, subject to Rules and Regulations to be hereafter framed, on payment of an Annual Subscription of half a guinea, and to others on payment of an Annual Subscription of one guinea. In the event of any books being taken out of the Library, the charge for carriage to be defrayed by the Subscribers to whom the books are sent (1889, p. 290).

Business to be Transacted in the Representative Session.—The Conference resolves that while it is distinctly affirmed that the Allan Library is the property of the Ministers of the Connexion, it will in future be convenient and sufficient that the business connected therewith shall be transacted only by the Conference in its Representative Session (1894, p. 226).

METHODIST SETTLEMENT IN LONDON.

At the time when the Bermondsey Settlement Scheme was inaugurated, the recent movement at Oxford and Cambridge had led to the establishment of Toynbee Hall, Oxford House, and the Women's University Settlement in Southwark. It was felt by those who were interested in Methodism at the Universities, that our Church was able to take a part in such social work, and was called to do so. The growth of sympathy in Colleges and Schools with the adverse conditions of poor populations, the sense of responsibility for sharing the advantages of Religion and Education with the poorer classes,

and the desire to bridge over the existing gulf between classes, was a feature of our modern life with which Methodism must especially be in sympathy. It was this feeling which led to the request made to the Conference of 1889, by Representatives of Methodists at the Universities, and by those at the head of Methodist Schools, for permission to found the Bermondsey Settlement, to be connected with Methodism, though worked on broad and generally undenominational lines.

It was resolved as follows:—

“The Conference sanctions the establishment of a Settlement in London, for Religious and Social Work in connexion with our own Church; and consents to appoint a Minister to the charge of such Settlement” (1889, p. 304).

Scheme of Management.

1. The general object of the Settlement shall be to provide a centre in London for Religious, Educational, and Social Work to be carried on by resident and non-resident Workers.

2. The Settlement shall be under the general management of a Committee annually appointed by the Conference.

3. The President of the Conference for the time being shall be *ex-officio* President of the Settlement.

4. The General Committee shall have power to appoint Vice-Presidents, who shall be Members of some Evangelical Church, subject to the condition that one-half of the number shall be Members or adherents of our own Church. These gentlemen shall be furnished annually with Reports of the work of the Settlement.

5. Care shall be taken to provide, as far as possible, for the representation on the General Committee of Colleges and Schools or other Bodies connected with the Settlement.

6. The General Committee shall have power to add to its Sub-Committees persons who are not Members of the Committee itself (1890, p. 298).

7. The Conference gives power to the Committee to meet occasionally for purely educational purposes, and to add to itself for these purposes persons interested in other Educational Institutions, their number not to exceed six (1893, p. 311).

Committee.

See the *Annual Minutes of the Conference*.

CHAPTER XII

THE CHILDREN'S HOME AND ORPHANAGE

THE Children's Home was established in the year 1869 by the Rev. T. Bowman Stephenson, D.D., and was recognised by the Conference of 1871.

Design of the Institution.—The Institution was designed to meet the needs of Children who are deprived of suitable guardianship by the death, or vice, or extreme poverty of their parents. The training of the Children is founded upon three main principles. First, religious teaching and influence; secondly, the influences of home, or family life; thirdly, practical industrial training. These principles involved the establishment of what is called the "Family system" as opposed to the "Barrack system." In this plan, small groups of children are placed in separate houses, each group under the care of a godly and intelligent woman, that so the influences of family life may be given to those who never knew them, and restored to those who have lost them. This fundamental idea of the Children's Home was indeed borrowed from the great German Institutions, but was modified in its application to English life and usages. Since its introduction in the Children's Home it has been extensively followed both in Institutions of private benevolence and in the Poor Law and other Institutions of the State. There are now (1897) six Branches of this work in the United Kingdom, and one in Canada. They are situated respectively at Bonner Road, London, where also the chief offices of the entire Institution are located; Edgworth, in

Lancashire; Farnborough, Hampshire; New Oscott, near Birmingham; Ramsey, Isle of Man; and Alverstoke in Hampshire. The Canadian Branch is situated at Hamilton, Ontario. All these Branches are Orphanages, most are also Refuges, and can, for cause shown, receive children whose parents are not dead; but that at Farnborough is designed specially for children who have been convicted of some petty offence or have been declared uncontrollable by their parents. They are sent by the Magistrates; but the School is not a Reformatory,—no child who has been in prison being eligible for admission. The Branch at New Oscott, called after the late lamented Princess Alice, is intended to receive Orphan Children of Christian parents only. It was found desirable to open a Branch for this purpose, in order that the pressure for the reception of such children at the other Branches might not render it impossible to continue to receive the Homeless and Friendless Children who were not born of Christian parents.

Principles of Management.—The principles of management are, however, the same through all the Branches.

Training School for Christian Workers.

In connexion with the London Branch there are also carried on missions amongst the poor of the East End of London, a Cripples' Parlour and School have been established, and there is a Training School for Christian workers. Great difficulty was early found in obtaining suitable workers to care for and train the Children; and hence there was gradually established an Order of Christian Deaconesses who should devote themselves specifically to Orphanage and Refuge work. Gradually this Order has become more fully established and regulated. The period of probation is at least two years; at the end of which, if the Probationer is deemed suitable, and if she has reached the age of twenty-five, she is consecrated or set apart to her work in a religious service. A Training House has been provided, that all those who enter may receive adequate training

in Theology and Biblical knowledge, in Medical Nursing, in all branches of Domestic Economy, and in the study of philanthropic Christian enterprise.

The management of this large Institution (there are at present about 1100 children in residence) has been somewhat modified from time to time. The constitution is now as follows : A General Committee is appointed by the Conference, which is charged with the maintenance and general control of the several Branches of the Institution, and administers all funds available. The Conference annually appoints as Sub-Committees of this General Committee, Local Executive Committees, which may include persons not Members of the General Committee. The General Committee receives from each Local Committee from time to time a statement of any expenditure for the period just concluded, and an estimate of expenditure for the period ensuing, and, after considering this statement, the General Committee determines the limits of expenditure to be observed by each Local Committee during the ensuing period. In the interval of the meetings of the General Committee, each Local Committee has power to decide upon the reception or rejection of Children for whom application is made.

General Committee.—The General Committee consists of the President, the ex-President, the Secretary of the Conference, the Principal, the Vice-Principal, the General Treasurers, the Treasurers of the Local Committees and the Honorary Secretaries, with two Ministers and two Laymen appointed by each of the Local Committees of London, Lancashire, Birmingham, and Ramsey, also nine Ministers and nine Laymen, not Members of the Local Committees. This Committee has power to associate with itself eight persons nominated by the Conferences of the other Methodist Churches and six persons representing other Evangelical Communion. The Local Committees consist of the Principal, the Vice-Principal, the General Treasurers, the Local Treasurers, the Honorary Secretaries, nine Ministers and nine Laymen. Each Local Committee has power to associate

with itself five other Members of our own Church and five persons belonging to other Evangelical Communion. The Conferences of the Methodist New Connexion, the United Methodist Free Church, and the Bible Christian Church, are now represented upon the General Committee by two persons nominated by each of those Conferences. See pp. 450, 451.

Collections and Subscriptions, 1892, p. 296.

The Wesley Deaconess Institute.—This has grown out of the work of the Children's Home, but is in organisation and finance independent of it. The need of trained, tested, and properly responsible women workers for the work of the Methodist Church was being increasingly felt, when, in the year 1890, a proposal for the establishment of this Order was made by the Rev. T. Bowman Stephenson, D.D. For several years the Institute was carried on without express sanction by the Conference. In the year 1894 the Conference was requested to consider its position, and whether it might not receive official recognition. A Committee was appointed, which sat during the year, and reported to the Conference of 1895 as follows :—

The Committee is of opinion that the work of Deaconesses and other women workers is of great value to the Church, and deserves to be encouraged. That, whilst not prepared, at present, to recommend that the Wesley Deaconess Institute should be brought under the direction of the Conference, the Committee learns with satisfaction that a responsible Committee of Management is being formed, consisting of Members of our Church, and suggests that the Conference should cordially recommend the Institute to the confidence and sympathy of the Connexion.

Upon receipt of the Report of the Committee the following Resolution was adopted :—

The Conference, having learned that a responsible Council has been formed for the management of the Wesley Deaconess Institute, recommends the Institute to the confidence and sympathy of the Connexion (1895, p. 323).

Having this sanction given to it, the Institute has grown rapidly, and the Order now contains some sixty Deaconesses,

who are at work in various Missions and Circuits in England, Ireland, and Scotland, in South Africa, in New Zealand, and in Ceylon. The Deaconess in New Zealand acts under the direction of the Methodist Conference of that Colony, and has been commissioned to establish a New Zealand Branch of the Wesley Deaconess Order.

The two Deaconesses employed in Ceylon, under the direction of the Chairman of the District, are supported by the contributions of the Officers and Sisters of the Children's Home and of the Wesley Deaconess Institute, together with a few personal friends.

Every Candidate for this Order, if approved by the Committee of Examination, enters upon two years' probation, the first of which is in one of the Training Houses of the Order. The second is spent in actual service in connexion with some Circuit or Mission. At the end of two years, if she is twenty-five years old, and if her work and character have been satisfactory, she is set apart or consecrated for her work in a solemn religious service. No vow is taken by any Deaconess, but many of them have already spent many years continuously in this holy service.

Wesley Deaconesses, working in Circuits, are, so far as their work is concerned, wholly under the direction of the Superintendent Minister, or of any Committee appointed by him. The Deaconess may be withdrawn by the Council, or the Circuit may require her removal, subject to three months' notice on either side. No payment is made by the Circuit to the Deaconess, but an agreed sum is paid to the Institute, which supplies to the Deaconess whatever may be necessary in any locality to a modest provision for her wants.

The government of the Deaconess Order is in the hands of a Council, by whom a Warden, for the whole Institute, a Sub-Warden, for each Training House, and Honorary Secretaries are appointed.

CHAPTER XIII

THE TEMPERANCE MOVEMENT—BANDS OF HOPE—CIRCUIT TEMPERANCE ORGANISATIONS—CIRCUIT TEMPERANCE UNIONS—DISTRICT TEMPERANCE SECRETARY.

IN the year 1873 the Conference appointed a Temperance Committee, one of the duties of which was “to promote legislation for the more effective control of the Liquor traffic, for the lessening of the number of Public-houses and Beer-houses, for the closing of such houses on the Lord’s day, and in general for the suppression of Intemperance.” That Committee was “also instructed to inquire into the question of Intemperance in relation to Christian effort in general, and Methodism in particular; to gather information as to the various agencies employed for its suppression; and to consider by what means, in consistency with the unity and harmonious working of our Connexional system as to its Discipline and Worship, the influence of Methodism may be most effectually employed for the remedy of this widespread and demoralising evil” (1873, vol. xix. pp. 193, 194).

In the year 1875 the Conference resolved as follows:—

1. A Temperance Committee shall be appointed from year to year, consisting of Ministers and Laymen, both Abstainers and Non-Abstainers, to act in harmony with the acknowledged Discipline of the Connexion, and specially with the functions of the Committees of Privileges and Exigency. See pp. 432–436.

2. It shall be the duty of this Committee to watch legislation as affecting the evils of Intemperance, to collect and circulate information in such ways as it may deem advisable, and generally to take such action in accordance with the first of these Resolutions as

circumstances may require ; and to report annually to the Conference, with such suggestions as from time to time they may think expedient.

3. The Conference sanctions the formation of Bands of Hope in connexion with Sunday Schools, and under the supervision of the Ministers of the Circuit and the Local Sunday School Committees ; and directs that the number of such Bands of Hope shall be annually reported to the Conference (1875, vol. xix. pp. 708, 709).

The Schemes for *Bands of Hope* and *Circuit Temperance Organisations*, carefully prepared by that Committee, were adopted in 1877,—the Conference at the same time expressing its “earnest hope that, in the working of these Regulations, the spirit of generous conciliation” in which they had been framed would be “constantly observed by all classes of our people.”

The Schemes in question are as follows :—

I. BANDS OF HOPE.

OBJECTS.

Bands of Hope are intended to educate the young in the principles and practice of sobriety.

It is a generally recognised fact that many Scholars, on leaving the Sunday School, do not unite themselves with the Christian Church, or even become members of religious congregations ; and it is believed that this lamentable defection from Christian ordinances is largely owing to prevalent drinking customs. It is proposed, therefore, to raise a barrier against the influence which those customs exert, by the establishment of “Bands of Hope,” the specific object of which shall be to train our youth in habits of abstinence from all intoxicating liquors.

Among the kindred objects designed to be secured by Bands of Hope are—The regular attendance of our young people upon public worship ; the inculcation of the moral duties of industry, honesty, truthfulness, cleanliness, kindness ; the discouragement of the practice of smoking ; and the creation of disgust for all bad or offensive habits—Sabbath-breaking, swearing, gambling, and such-like. Basing all moral duties upon the authority of Holy Scripture, the Band of Hope, with its special organisation and appliances, is adapted to be an important auxiliary to the Sunday School and the Church, and thus to supply a need which has long been felt and acknowledged.

PRELIMINARY STEPS IN FORMING A BAND OF HOPE.

The Conference has sanctioned "the formation of Bands of Hope in connexion with Sunday Schools, under the supervision of the Ministers of the Circuit and the local Sunday School Committees"; and has directed that "the number of such Bands of Hope shall be annually reported to the Conference" (1875, vol. xix. p. 709). It is therefore the duty of the promoters of this movement—

First,—To obtain the sanction of the Superintendent of the Circuit.

Secondly,—To bring the proposal to establish a Band of Hope before the Teachers' Meeting and before the Committee of the School; so that it may be worked in harmony with the other arrangements of the School, and that its efficiency and usefulness may be secured.

Thirdly,—To make application, through the Superintendent Minister, for the use of a room in which the meetings of the Band of Hope may be held.

GENERAL RULES.

The following Regulations are proposed as the basis of Management for each Band of Hope:—

I. It shall be conducted in distinct and avowed connexion with the Wesleyan Methodist Church, the increase and welfare of which it shall seek to promote in every practicable way.

II. The General Management shall be entrusted to a Committee, consisting of—

1. All the Ministers of the Circuit.
2. A Treasurer.
3. A Conductor, Secretary, and Registrar, who shall be Members of Society, and, by preference, Officers or Teachers in the Sunday School.
4. Six or more persons, of whom it is desirable that one-half, at least, should be Abstainers.

The Officers and Committee to be elected annually by the Sunday School Committee.

N.B.—The Committee to meet once a quarter, or oftener if necessary, for the transaction of business.

III. The Band of Hope Meeting shall be held regularly, and begin and end promptly at the time announced, always with singing and prayer. No ordinary Meeting should be prolonged beyond an hour and a quarter.

IV. The speakers at such Meeting shall be connected with our own or some other branch of the Christian Church.

V. The following shall be the form of DECLARATION adopted :—
 “I agree to abstain from all intoxicating liquors, as beverages.”

VI. Children above the age of seven years shall be eligible as Members; Children under that age may be enrolled as Candidates, without making the Declaration.

OFFICERS.

1. *President*.—The Superintendent of the Circuit, or one of his Colleagues, shall be, *ex officio*, President; but it may be desirable to elect a Conductor, whose duty it shall be to attend every Meeting, arrange the programme, receive the speakers, and in other ways see that the business of each Meeting is properly carried out.

N.B.—It is understood that the arrangement of the programme and all the other details of every Meeting are under the control of the Superintendent of the Circuit and the Committee.

2. *Secretary*.—The Secretary shall take Minutes at Committee Meetings, prepare Reports, conduct correspondence, and make arrangements for Meetings.

3. *Registrar*.—The Registrar shall keep account of Officers and Members of the Band of Hope, register admissions and attendance, record reasons for absence and withdrawal, fill up the Declaration Cards, and supply Tickets of Membership.

In many places it may be necessary that the offices of Secretary and Registrar should be held by the same person.

N.B.—Admission Books and Attendance Registers may be obtained from the Wesleyan Conference Office and the Wesleyan Sunday School Union Dépôt.

MEMBERSHIP.

Any Child above seven years of age desiring to become a Member, whose parents do not object, shall write his or her name under the following Declaration :—“I agree to abstain from all intoxicating liquors, as beverages.”

A Declaration Book shall be provided and kept for that purpose.

When the Declaration has been kept for three months, the young person will be an acknowledged Member, and should purchase the Card of Membership.

Especial care should be exercised in the admission of Members. The greatest pains should be taken to ascertain that the Child understands the nature of the engagement into which it desires to enter. The plan of visiting the Child's parents or guardians should be adopted in every case where application is made for admission.

N.B.—In 1891 the Conference recommended that, in order to secure a more accurate enrolment of Members, all our Bands of Hope shall issue Quarterly Tickets of Membership, and that such

Tickets shall be given, not only to the ordinary Members of the Band of Hope, but also to all the Scholars in our Sunday Schools who are willing to enrol themselves in the Sunday School Teachers' Pledge Book ; and that such persons shall be reckoned as Members of our Bands of Hope, whether they are able to attend the Band of Hope Meetings or not (1891, p. 314).

THE CONDUCT OF THE BAND OF HOPE.

Every Meeting shall be commenced with devotional exercises. There should be two or three short addresses. Singing should be regarded as an important feature in every Meeting. If any recitations be introduced, nothing vulgar or theatrical should be allowed.

In conducting Bands of Hope, it should ever be remembered that the sentiments and music introduced will linger in the memory, and influence the feelings and character throughout subsequent years ; hence they should always be pure, refining, elevating. The singing should be lively ; the speakers should seek, not only to interest and amuse, but also to *instruct*, and thus to build up character on the basis of Christian principle, ever bearing in mind that "the harvest answereth to the seed."

N.B.—No sale of literature shall be permitted on the Lord's day.

AUXILIARY AGENCIES.

The efficiency of Bands of Hope may be greatly promoted by the introduction of carefully selected literature ; by the formation of a Singing-Class ; by the discreet supervision of all festival arrangements ; by the collection of small subscriptions from those who are able to become Paying Members ; and, in many cases, by the establishment of a Penny Bank.

RELATION TO THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

As the religious character and harmonious working of the Bands of Hope will depend largely upon their close connexion with the Sunday School, it is very desirable that they should, as far as possible, be countenanced and promoted by the Superintendents, Officers, and Teachers of the several Schools with which they are associated.

THE CHIEF AIM.

In order to secure the blessing of Almighty God, the Band of Hope should be carried on in the spirit of faith and prayer ; the Children should be clearly taught that Total Abstinence is no substitute for Scriptural conversion ; and the whole Organisation should be constantly regarded as only a means to the great end of winning souls for Christ, and of retaining them within the fold of His Church (1877, vol. xx. pp. 515-518).

II. CIRCUIT ORGANISATIONS FOR THE PROMOTION OF TEMPERANCE.

TITLE.

1. Every such Organisation shall be called a "Wesleyan Methodist Temperance Society."

PRINCIPLES.

1. Every Wesleyan Methodist Temperance Society must recognise the principle, already sanctioned by the Conference, of the co-operation of Abstainers and Non-Abstainers.

N.B.—In view of the fact that the larger number of the Temperance Societies reported in our Schedules are not organised according to Conference Rule, and that several important District Synods have suggested a modification of the Rule concerning the Dual Platform; the Conference, while urging that, wherever possible, its original Rule shall be adhered to, nevertheless sanctions the formation of Societies upon a Total Abstinence basis in Circuits where this appears to be the most desirable method of working (1892, p. 304).

2. In the formation of such Societies, the Superintendent Minister shall be first consulted, and his concurrence obtained.

3. Every such Society shall use the forms of Declaration hereinafter contained.

OBJECTS.

To promote Temperance, and to remove the Causes which lead to Intemperance. The following are the special objects which these Societies should seek to secure :—

1. The Diminution of the number of Licensed Houses for the Sale of Intoxicating Liquors, and the shortening of the Time during which they may be open each day.

2. The suppression of Beer-houses throughout the country.

3. The closing of Public-houses during the whole of the Lord's day, except for the accommodation of *bonâ fide* travellers.

4. The curtailment, by appeals to the Licensing authorities, of facilities for the Sale of Intoxicating Liquors.

5. The refusal of Dancing and Music Licences to Houses licensed for the Sale of Intoxicating Liquors.

6. The removal from Public-houses of Benefit, Friendly, and Burial Clubs, and the discontinuance of the payment of Wages at such houses.

7. The discouragement of the use of Intoxicants in "Toasts" and "Drinking of Healths"; in social calls and "Treating"; in

business and commercial transactions; and in "Footing" and similar customs.

8. The encouragement of Refreshment-houses and Reading-rooms in which strong drink shall not be supplied.

9. The entire disuse of Intoxicating Liquors in connexion with Sunday School Festivals and Excursions, and on similar occasions.

10. The reclaiming of those who have "erred through strong drink."

11. The educating of Public Opinion on the foregoing objects; and the sending of Petitions to Parliament, when deemed desirable by the Connexional Committee on Temperance.

12. The encouragement of Special Prayer for the Divine blessing upon the Temperance Movement.

N.B.—In 1870 the Conference passed the following Resolution:—

The Conference declares its judgment that a reform of the present Licensing system is absolutely necessary, and that in any measures which may hereafter be adopted, provision should be made, in harmony with a recognised principle of local self-government, that the ratepayers, who bear the charges resulting from the prevalence of Intemperance and its consequent pauperism and crime, shall also have the power to control the issue of licences for the sale of intoxicating drinks within their respective districts. The Conference further expresses the hope that any well-considered measure tending to secure this object will meet with general and earnest support (1870, vol. xviii. p. 150. See also 1895, p. 304).

MANAGEMENT.

1. The Superintendent of the Circuit shall be, *ex officio*, Chairman of the Committee of Management; but may, when he shall see fit, appoint one of his Colleagues to act in his place.

2. The Committee of Management shall, if practicable, be composed of Abstainers and Non-Abstainers. Two-thirds, at least, of this Committee shall be Members of the Wesleyan Methodist Society and the remainder regular attendants on the Wesleyan Methodist Ministry.

3. The Ministers of the Circuit shall be, *ex officio*, Members of the Committee; the other Members of the Committee shall be elected by the Members of such Society at their Annual Meeting.

4. The Committee shall at its first Meeting elect a Treasurer and a Secretary. The Committee shall meet as frequently as circumstances may require, and, if no Minister be present, shall elect some other Member to preside.

MEMBERSHIP.

1. All persons who shall sign and observe either of the following DECLARATIONS shall be regarded as Members :—

Abstaining Members.

I hereby agree to abstain from all Intoxicating Liquors, as beverages; and will endeavour to promote the objects of this Society.

Non-Abstaining Members.

1. I hereby agree to exert myself for the suppression of Intemperance, and will endeavour to promote the objects of this Society.

2. Members shall be requested to contribute towards the expenses of the Circuit Organisation (1877, vol. xx. pp. 515-520).

CIRCUIT TEMPERANCE UNIONS.

TEMPERANCE SUNDAY.

The Conference recommends that on the last Sunday in November in each year special reference shall be made in all Wesleyan Methodist Places of Worship, and in all our Sunday Schools, to the appalling extent and dire results of Intemperance (1887, p. 254).

For *Bands of Hope*, see pp. 424-427.

At the Conference of 1879 additional Regulations were adopted, with the design of giving completeness and efficiency to the Circuit Organisations. The following Plan of *Circuit Temperance Unions* was approved :—

The Wesleyan Methodist Temperance Societies and Bands of Hope in any Circuit may be formed into a Circuit Temperance Union.

MANAGEMENT.

Every such Union shall be managed by a Committee, annually elected, consisting equally, if possible, of Abstainers and Non-Abstainers, and comprising all the Ministers of the Circuit, together with twelve or more persons, one-half of whom shall be elected by the Band or Bands of Hope in the Circuit in such proportions as may be locally determined; and the other half shall, in like manner, be elected by the Temperance Society or Societies of the Circuit. The elective body of each Band of Hope or Temperance Society shall be, for this purpose, its own Committee.

OFFICERS.

The Circuit Union Committee shall appoint from among themselves a Treasurer and Secretaries.

SECRETARIES.

The Secretaries shall convene and take Minutes of Meetings of the Committee ; keep a record of Returns received from the Temperance Societies and Bands of Hope ; furnish, in due time, the Returns required for the District Temperance Secretary's Report ; and attend generally to the affairs of the Circuit Temperance Union (1879, p. 265).

The Conference recommends the appointment of a Circuit Temperance Secretary in every Circuit ; and the Superintendents are directed to send the name and address of such Secretary to the Secretary of the Connexional Temperance Committee not later than the end of September. And wherever no Circuit Temperance Secretary is appointed, the Superintendents of Circuits are directed to send to the Connexional Secretary, by the same date, the names and addresses of all the Secretaries of Bands of Hope and Temperance Societies in their respective Circuits (1894, p. 304).

CHAIRMAN.

The Superintendent of the Circuit shall be, *ex officio*, Chairman of the Committee, but may, when he shall see fit, appoint one of his Colleagues, or some other Member of the Committee, to act in his place (1879, p. 265).

III. DISTRICT TEMPERANCE ORGANISATIONS.

MINISTERIAL DISTRICT TEMPERANCE SECRETARY.

At the September District Synod a Ministerial District Temperance Secretary shall be appointed, to whom shall be sent all Returns and Reports from the Circuit Unions, Bands of Hope, and Temperance Societies. It shall be the duty of this Secretary to prepare a Report on the Temperance work of the District, and submit the same to the District Synod in May, and afterwards forward it, with any Resolutions of the District Synod thereupon, to the Secretaries of the General Temperance Committee (1879, pp. 265, 266).

The Conference sanctions the appointment in every Synod of one of the Lay Members of the Temperance Committee as Joint-Secretary with the Ministerial Secretary (1898, p. 331).

DISTRICT TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE.

1. Each September District Synod shall appoint a District Temperance Committee, consisting of the Chairman of the District, the District Temperance Secretary, who shall be Secretary of the Committee, four other Ministers, and four Laymen, all of whom shall be Members of the District Synod (1893, p. 319).

2. The Temperance Committee shall prepare the Annual Report on the Temperance work in the District, and shall attend generally to the Temperance affairs of the District.

3. No arrangements shall be made by the District Committee, on behalf of Temperance Societies or Bands of Hope in any Circuit, without the consent of the Superintendent of that Circuit (1883, p. 242).

MINISTERIAL GENERAL TEMPERANCE SECRETARY.

The Conference approved the suggestion of a large majority of the District Synods, that a Minister be set apart as General Temperance Secretary (1890, p. 289).

OPIUM TRAFFIC.

“The Conference commits the question of the Opium Traffic to the Temperance Committee, and directs it to associate with itself in its deliberations upon this subject certain Missionaries and others who are able to give special information in relation to it ” (1891, p. 314).

BETTING AND GAMBLING.

1. “The Conference deeply deplores the widespread prevalence of Betting and Gambling, and is of opinion that the time has come when vigorous efforts should be made by the pulpit, the platform, the press, and the Legislature in order to combat this growing evil ” (1890, p. 289).

2. “The Conference deeply deplores the widespread prevalence of Betting and Gambling, and expresses its grief that the newspaper press of this country stimulates these vices by devoting so much space to the publication of sporting items.

The Conference, therefore, directs the Temperance Committee to continue its exertions for the suppression of these evils by encouraging the use of the pledge against Betting and Gambling, and by all other means within its reach. The Conference also expresses its opinion that the most vigorous efforts should be made to combat these evils by the pulpit, platform, press, and Sunday School" (1892, p. 303).

SACRAMENTAL WINE.

The Resolutions on Sacramental Wine adopted by the Conference in 1877 are as follows:—

1. The Conference cannot sanction the use of anything which is not "the fruit of the vine" in the administration of the Lord's Supper.

2. The Conference cannot sanction any usage in the administration of that Ordinance which is the expression of Christian unity, which would tend to divide Members into two classes.

3. It believes that the use of Rota Tent Wine, so extensively used among professing Christians at the Supper of the Lord, would avoid all reasonable cause of offence, either to Abstainers or non-Abstainers (1877, vol. xx. p. 436).

SOCIAL PURITY.

In 1884 the Conference appointed a Committee to deal with the question of Social Purity (1884, pp. 276, 277).

For the Committee, see p. 458.

CHAPTER XIV

COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES AND EXIGENCY—COMMITTEE FOR PROMOTING THE RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE OF THE LORD'S DAY.

COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES.

THE Committee for guarding the Privileges of our religious Communion was first appointed in the year 1803, and consisted of three Ministers and seven Laymen. In addition to the general duty implied in the very designation of the Committee, it was resolved that this Committee should “be consulted previously to the commencement of any lawsuit, on account of the whole or any part of the Connexion; and if any lawsuit be commenced, in future, before the Committee be consulted and their approbation be obtained, the Conference and Connexion at large shall not be responsible for any expenses incurred by such lawsuit” (1803, vol. ii. p. 184). Since that period the constitution of the Committee has been enlarged, so as to include a considerable number of Ministers in Great Britain, together with the Representatives, from year to year, of the Irish Conference, and a large number also of influential Laymen. On various occasions of great importance this Committee has rendered to the Connexion most valuable service.

In the year 1843 “an *acting Sub-Committee*” was appointed for “Cases of Exigency”; but after a few years the smaller body was recognised as a *distinct* Committee, with the designation of the *Committee of Exigency*. The duty of this Committee is, “to consider all Cases of Exigency arising in any department of our affairs, or otherwise, requiring prompt communica-

tion with the Government or with Parliament on subjects affecting our public interests." At the Conference of 1879 an additional arrangement was adopted. The President, the ex-President, and the Secretary of the Conference, with three Laymen and the Secretaries of the Committee of Exigency, were constituted a *Sub-Committee* of that Committee, and instructed to "meet once a quarter, or oftener if necessary, in order to consider any case of alleged grievance, or other matters of exigency which might arise" (1879, p. 202).

The Committee of Privileges and Exigency consists of an Ordinary and Extraordinary Committee, viz.:—

The Ordinary Committee.—The Ordinary Committee shall have full power to take action in all cases affecting our Connexional or public interests, unless in its judgment, or in the judgment of the President of the Conference, it is deemed expedient to refer any case to the Extraordinary Committee.

The Ordinary Committee shall meet whenever it is convened either by the direction of the President of the Conference, or by its Secretaries (1882, p. 398 ; 1883, p. 191).

The Extraordinary Committee.—The Extraordinary Committee shall have full power to take action in all cases affecting our Connexional interests, and shall meet whenever the Ordinary Committee, or the President of the Conference, shall convene it (1882, p. 398).

Constitution of the Committees.—The Conference of 1881 provisionally adopted Resolutions involving extensive changes in the constitution of the Committees of Privileges and Exigency.

For the Constitution of the Committees, see *Nomination of Mixed Committees*, pp. 454–456.

THE LORD'S DAY COMMITTEE.

The *Committee for Promoting the Religious Observance of the Lord's Day* was first appointed in the year 1848. The Conference of that year adopted the following Resolution:—

Convinced of the great and growing importance of a careful observance of the Lord's day to the prosperity of the Church of

Christ, and of the nation at large, the Conference appoints a Committee to watch over the general interests of the Sabbath, to observe the course of events in reference to it, to collect such information as may serve the cause of Sabbath observance, to correspond with persons who are engaged in similar designs, and to report, from year to year, the results of their inquiries, with such suggestions as they may think proper to offer to the Conference (1848, vol. xi. p. 102).

The Committee thus appointed consisted of twelve Ministers ; and, for a few years, its constitution, though enlarged, was exclusively Ministerial. But in the year 1855, Laymen were combined with Ministers, and the number of Members was still further increased. The Committee has, from year to year, rendered important service to the Connexion in advising and stimulating effort to guard the sacredness of the Lord's day, and in watching and seeking to obviate proposed legislation, the tendency of which would be to invade its hallowed rest, and to deprive the poor of the invaluable advantages which it confers.

For the Resolutions of the Conference respecting the Constitution and Appointment of this Committee, see *Nomination of Mixed Committees*, p. 457.

The Temperance District Committees to take charge of the Lord's Day Question.—The Conference resolves that the Temperance Committee of each District shall take direct oversight of the Lord's Day question (1896, p. 331).

Closing of Public-houses on the Lord's Day.—See Conference Resolutions under *Temperance Affairs*, pp. 428, 429.

CHAPTER XV

THE NOMINATION AND CONSTITUTION OF MIXED CONNEXIONAL COMMITTEES.

THE Conference of 1878 appointed a Committee "to consider the Constitution of Connexional Mixed Committees and the best mode of appointing the Members thereof." The Committee was reappointed in 1879 and 1880, subject to some modifications, and at the Conference of 1881 the following Resolutions were adopted, in order that the satisfactoriness or otherwise of the Scheme submitted by the Committee may in its details be ascertained by actual working.

The Scheme has been altered in some of its details, and the following embodies the modifications which have been sanctioned by the Conference in the annual appointments as printed in the Minutes :—

I.

In the judgment of the Conference, it is neither desirable nor practicable to conform all Committees of Departments to one model, either with respect to considerations governing the appointment of individual Members, or with respect to the number of Members of which each Committee should consist.

As to the latter point, the Conference is of opinion that the number of Members constituting Departmental Committees may vary with the nature and range of the work entrusted to each Committee; but that, while the number of persons appointed to serve on any Departmental Committee should, on the one hand, be adequate for the efficient discharge of all its

duties and for securing the confidence of the Connexion in its administration, it should not, on the other hand, be larger than may be necessary for these purposes.

II.

The Conference adopts the following RESOLUTIONS respecting MIXED COMMITTEES OF CONNEXIONAL DEPARTMENTS :—

1. That Members of Society, whether they are Members of the Conference in its Representative Session or not, shall be eligible for appointment upon Departmental Committees.

2. That the President of the Conference, the ex-President, and the Secretary of the Conference shall be *ex-officio* Members of every Committee of a Connexional Department.

3. That although exceptions may be occasionally admitted, every Committee of a Connexional Department shall ordinarily consist of an equal number of Ministers (in addition to the President) and of Laymen.

4. That no Minister who is not an Officer of a Departmental Committee shall remain upon that Committee as a Member more than six consecutive years, unless he shall have been nominated for a further appointment thereon by the vote of four-fifths of the Members of the Committee present.

5. That a certain number of Lay Gentlemen, being at least one-sixth of the number of Lay Members of each Departmental Committee, shall annually retire from each Committee by rotation, the same persons being ineligible for immediate re-appointment, except in special cases, and after nomination for such re-appointment by the vote of four-fifths of the Members of the Committee present.

III.

The Conference adopts the following REGULATIONS for the appointment of MIXED COMMITTEES OF CONNEXIONAL DEPARTMENTS :—

1. The Conference shall annually appoint the Members of

each Mixed Committee of a Connexional Department (not being hereinafter described as *ex-officio* Members) after receiving the Report of a Nomination Committee, which shall be appointed and shall act in the manner hereinafter provided.

The General Treasurers of the several Funds, and the Local Treasurers of Executive Committees, shall be appointed by the Conference after receiving the Nominations of the Committees of the several Funds.

2. The Nomination Committee shall consist of—

- (a) The eighteen Laymen appointed by the previous Conference in its Representative Session to be Members of the Conference then next ensuing.
- (b) Eighteen Ministers to be appointed annually by the Conference in its Pastoral Session.
- (c) Two Secretaries (one Minister and one Layman), who shall be annually appointed by the Conference to act upon the Nomination Committee of the Conference ensuing.

3. It shall be the duty of the Secretaries—(a) to convene the Meeting of the Nomination Committee, and to summon to it persons entitled to attend its Meeting; (b) to receive from the Committee of each Connexional Department a list of persons, *ex officio* and otherwise, who are proposed for appointment upon it by the Conference; (c) to present the lists so received to the Nomination Committee; (d) to keep the record of the proceedings of the Committee, and (e) to report to the Conference on its behalf.

4. The Nomination Committee shall meet previous to the Meeting of the Representative Conference. At that Meeting the President of the Conference shall preside, or, in his absence, some ex-President or other Minister whom he shall depute; and the Secretary or some other deputed Representative of each Connexional Department shall attend to give such information as may be necessary.

5. The Nomination Committee shall consider the lists sent

forward by the several Committees of Connexional Departments ; it shall take care that the constitution of each Committee nominated is in accordance with the Regulations of the Conference ; it shall have power to amend the lists sent forward, as it may deem desirable, and to make any changes in reference to Ministers recommended for nomination which the action of the Ministerial Conference may have rendered necessary, but only in cases of necessity shall it make any change in reference to either the Ministerial or Lay nominees of a District Synod, and every such change shall be reported to the Conference.

6. The Conference shall annually appoint a Ministerial and Lay Secretary of the Nomination Committee. See pp. 66, 67.

IV.

The Conference adopts the following REGULATIONS for the CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEES OF CONNEXIONAL DEPARTMENTS :—

HOME MISSION AND CONTINGENT FUND.

The GENERAL COMMITTEE shall consist of—

i. *Ex-officio* Members,—namely, the President and the Secretary of the Conference ; the ex-President ; the Treasurers and the Secretary of the Fund ; the Treasurers and the Secretary of the Fund for the Extension of Methodism in Great Britain ; the Treasurers and Secretary of the London Wesleyan Methodist Mission ; the Secretaries of the Foreign Missionary Society :

ii. Twenty Ministers and twenty-three Laymen residing in the London Districts, to be recommended for nomination to the Conference by the General Committee.

iii. (1) The Chairman of each District in Great Britain :

(2) One Layman from each District in Great Britain, to be nominated by the District Synod at its Meeting in May ; with,—

- (3) Twelve Ministers and twelve Laymen residing in other than the London Districts, to be recommended for nomination to the Conference by the General Committee.

The names of the Laymen nominated by the District Synod shall be sent to the Secretaries of the General Committee, who shall report them at its Meeting next before the Conference, and at that Meeting the twelve Ministers and fifteen Laymen named in section ii. above, and the eight Ministers and eight Laymen named in section iii. (3) above, to be recommended for nomination, shall be chosen.

ARMY AND NAVY SUB-COMMITTEE.—This Sub-Committee shall consist of the President and Secretary of the Conference; the Treasurers and the Secretary of the Home Mission and Contingent Fund, including the Assistant-Secretary; the Treasurers and Secretaries of the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society; the Minister appointed to be Assistant-Secretary of the Army and Navy Sub-Committee; the Secretary of the Army and Navy Committee in Ireland; with eight Ministers and eight Laymen resident in the London Districts; and six Ministers and six Laymen resident in Provincial Districts, who shall be recommended for nomination to the Conference in equal proportions by the Home Mission and the Foreign Mission Committees respectively.

THE SEAMEN'S MISSION SUB-COMMITTEE.—The Sub-Committee shall consist of the Officers of the Home Mission Fund; the Superintendent of the Mission; the Superintendent of the London (Poplar) Circuit; the Circuit Stewards of the London (Poplar) Circuit; the Limehouse Stewards; the Local Treasurer of the Mission; four Laymen, to be nominated by the Sub-Committee; and ten other persons to be elected by the Home Mission Committee.

As early as possible after the meeting of the General Committee next before the Conference, and not later than ten days before the opening of the next Representative Session of the

Conference, the Secretaries of the Committee shall forward to the Secretaries of the Nomination Committee a list of all persons (together with a list of *ex-officio* Members), who are recommended for nomination to the Conference for the General Committee, the Army and Navy Sub-Committee, and the Seamen's Mission Sub-Committee respectively.

CHAPEL AFFAIRS.

The CHAPEL COMMITTEE shall consist of—

i. *Ex-officio* Members, — namely, the President and the Secretary of the Conference; the ex-President; the Treasurers of the Fund; the Secretary of the Committee; the Treasurers and Secretary of the Metropolitan Chapel Building Fund; the General Secretary of the Home Mission and Contingent Fund; and a Member of the Board of Trustees for Chapel purposes, with—

ii. Twenty-six Ministers and twenty-seven Laymen, who shall be recommended by the Chapel Committee for nomination to the Conference, chiefly from among members resident in the Manchester, Bolton, and adjacent Districts.

A list of the Ministers and Laymen recommended by the Chapel Committee for nomination to the Conference (together with a list of *ex-officio* Members) shall be sent by the Secretary of the Chapel Committee to the Secretaries of the Nomination Committee, not later than ten days before the opening of the next Representative Session of the Conference.

THE SOUTH WALES AND NORTH WALES CHAPEL FUND COMMITTEES shall each consist of eight Ministers and eight Laymen, to be recommended for nomination to the Conference by the South Wales and the North Wales District Synods respectively, in May of each year; and the names of Ministers and Laymen so nominated shall be sent by the Secretaries of the two District Synods to the Secretaries of the Nomination Committee, not later than ten days before the opening of the next Representative Session of the Conference.

RELIEF AND EXTENSION FUND FOR METHODISM IN SCOTLAND.

—The Committee shall consist of the Superintendent Minister in the Scotland District, of one Layman from each Circuit, to be recommended for nomination to the Conference by the Synod of the Scotland District, at its Meeting in May of each year, and of such other gentleman or gentlemen from any Circuit in Scotland as the District Synod may appoint. The names of the Laymen nominated shall be sent, by the Secretary of the District Synod, to the Secretaries of the Nomination Committee, after the May District Synod, and not later than ten days before the opening of the Representative Session of the Conference. The General Treasurers and Secretaries of the Fund shall be appointed by the General Committee from amongst the Members of that Committee at their Meeting, to be held annually in connexion with the Financial District Synod of the Scotland District.

METROPOLITAN CHAPEL BUILDING FUND.

In 1881 the Committee was appointed in accordance with the Scheme provisionally adopted by the Conference, but at the Conference of 1886 it was agreed that it should be constituted as follows :—

The COMMITTEE now consists of—

i. *Ex-officio* Members,—namely, the President and the Secretary of the Conference; the ex-President; the Treasurers of the Fund; the Secretary and Assistant-Secretaries; the Secretary of the Chapel Committee, and the Secretary of the Home Mission and Contingent Fund.

ii. The Elected Members :—

(1) By the Conference, fifteen Laymen of the London Districts, who are Annual Subscribers, and such a number of Ministers as will equalise the number of Laymen and Ministers, amongst whom shall be included the Chairmen of the London Districts.

(2) By the London District Synods, four Ministers and four

Laymen, by each District, at the September District Synod (1886, pp. 331, 332).

EXTENSION OF METHODISM IN GREAT BRITAIN.

The COMMITTEE shall consist of—

i. *Ex-officio* Members,—namely, the President and the Secretary of the Conference; the ex-President; the Treasurers and Secretary of the Fund; the Treasurers and Secretary of the Chapel Fund; the Treasurers and Secretary of the Home Mission and Contingent Fund:

ii. One Minister and one Layman from each Annual District Synod in England, to be nominated at its Meeting in May, with—

iii. Fifteen Ministers and fifteen Laymen (ten of each of whom shall be resident in or near London), to be recommended for nomination by the Committee at its Meeting next before Conference in each year.

The names of the nominees of the District Synods shall be sent to the Secretary of the Extension Fund Committee immediately after the May Synod. He shall report them to the Committee at its Meeting next before the Conference, when the fifteen Ministers and fifteen Laymen named in iii. above shall be recommended for nomination. As soon as possible after that Meeting, and not later than ten days before the opening of the next Representative Session of the Conference, the Secretary of the Committee shall forward to the Secretaries of the Nomination Committee a complete list of the names of persons (together with a list of *ex-officio* Members) recommended for nomination for appointment upon the Extension Fund Committee for the year ensuing.

WESLEYAN THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTION.

The GENERAL COMMITTEE shall consist of—

i. *Ex-officio* Members,—namely, the President and the Secretary of the Conference; the ex-President; the General

Treasurers ; the General Secretary ; the Treasurers and Local Secretaries of the several Branches ; the Tutors of the several Branches ; the General Examination Secretaries of Preachers on Trial :

ii. Twenty-four Ministers and thirty-four Laymen, residing in Districts in or near to which the several Branches of the Institution are situated, who shall be recommended by the General Committee for nomination to the Conference, with—

iii. Six Ministers and eight Laymen, who shall be recommended by the Missionary Committee from amongst its Members for nomination to the Conference.

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES for the DIDSBURY, HEADINGLEY, and BIRMINGHAM BRANCHES respectively shall act as Sub-Committees of the General Committee, shall be annually appointed by the Conference, and shall be constituted as follows :—

(1) The President and the Secretary of the Conference, the General Treasurers and the General Secretary, the Tutors, the Treasurers, the Secretary of the Branch :

(2) Six Ministers and eight Laymen, who shall be appointed from among Members of the General Committee included in groups i. and ii. above : and

(3) An additional and equal number of Ministers and Laymen, not exceeding twenty-four of each.

Each of the three Executive Committees above named shall forward to the General Committee for consideration at its Meeting next before each Conference, a List showing—

(a) The names of the Ministers and Laymen whom it suggests that the General Committee should recommend for nomination to the Conference as Members of that Executive Committee ; and

(b) The names of the persons whom it suggests that the General Committee should nominate to the Conference for appointment to the offices of Treasurers and Secretary of the Branch.

The names of the Members of EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES of the three Branches above mentioned shall be printed in the Minutes of Conference for the year.

The General Committee, after having received and considered at its Meeting next before the Conference in each year the list of names sent forward to it from the Executive Committees of Didsbury, Headingley, and Birmingham, shall prepare and forward to the Nomination Committee a complete Nomination Scheme, showing (together with a list of *ex-officio* Members) the names of Ministers and Laymen recommended for appointment upon the General Committee and upon the Executive Committees of the three Branches named above of the Institution, and specifying the Minister proposed for the office of Local Secretary for each of the four Branches.

The above-mentioned Nomination Scheme shall be sent in each year to the Secretaries of the Nomination Committee, as early as possible after it has been adopted by the General Committee, and in no case later than ten days before the opening of the next Representative Session of the Conference.

The Conference resolves to amend the Resolution of the Conference, 1879, *Minutes*, p. 249 (iii.), in accordance with the foregoing proposals respecting Local Executive Committees.

The Executive Committee for the RICHMOND BRANCH consists of the President, the ex-President, and the Secretary of the Conference; the General Treasurers; the General Secretary; the Tutors; the Treasurers and Secretary of the Branch; the Superintendent Minister of the Richmond Circuit; and those Members of the Missionary Committee who reside in the three London Districts.

Finance Sub-Committee.—The Conference appoints a Finance Sub-Committee, and directs it to meet before each Quarterly Meeting of the General Committee, to consider the Reports of the Governors as to payments to and payments by Students, to examine the Quarterly Statements of the Local Treasurers,

and generally to compare and watch the expenditure at the several Branches of the Institution (1884, p. 254).

The Committee consists of the President of the Conference; the ex-President; the Secretary; the General and Local Treasurers; the General and Local Secretaries; the House Governors; together with other Ministers and Laymen, the number not being defined.

For the *Discipline Committees* of the several Branches of the Institution, see pp. 90-92.

THE FUND FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND EDUCATION OF MINISTERS' CHILDREN.

The GENERAL COMMITTEE which administers the Schools Fund and the Children's Fund has been reconstructed, and consists of—

Thirty-two Ministers and thirty-two Laymen, annually appointed by the Conference. Its Meetings are ordinarily held in London, Manchester, and Bath, or as the Conference may direct. It includes the Members of the Governing Body of Kingswood School and the Members of the Governing Body of the Girls' School, elected in accordance with any Regulations already or hereafter to be adopted by the Conference.

The Governing Body of Kingswood School shall consist of—

The President, ex-President, and Secretary of the Conference;

The General Treasurers, and the General Secretaries of the Education Section of the Fund;

The Secretary of the Cash Office;

The Governor and Head Master of the School, for the time being, together with eight other Ministers and fourteen other Laymen, inclusive of *one* Representative nominated by the Masters of the School, and *three* by the "Old Boys' Union," to be called Elected Members.

N.B.—Where a double qualification is possessed, another Member shall be chosen.

The Governing Body of the Girls' School shall consist of—

The President, ex-President, and Secretary of the Conference ;

The General Treasurers and the General Secretaries of the Education Section of the Fund ;

The Secretary of the Cash Office ;

The Local Treasurer and the Local Secretary of the School ;

There shall be eight other Ministers, and fourteen other Laymen, to be called Elected Members.

N.B.—Where a double qualification is possessed, another Member shall be chosen.

The Governing Body of the Girls' School shall appoint a Managing Committee, consisting of ten Members ; the Treasurer and Secretary of the Managing Committee shall be additional and *ex-officio* Members. With the Members of the Managing Committee thus appointed by the Conference there shall be associated as additional Members other persons, who shall not be Members of the Governing Body unless they have been appointed to it by the Conference. The additional Members of the Managing Committee shall be appointed by the General Committee upon the nomination of that Committee.

The General Committee, after having received and considered at its Meeting next before the Conference in each year the list of names sent forward to it from the Governing Body of the Boys' School, and from the Governing Body of the Girls' School, shall prepare and forward to the Nomination Committee a complete Nomination Scheme, showing (together with lists of *ex-officio* Members) the names of persons whom it recommends for nomination to the Conference—(a) upon the General Committee, (b) upon the Governing Body of the Kingswood School, (c) upon the Governing Body of the School for Girls, and (d) upon the Managing Committee of the School for Girls.

The above-mentioned Nomination Scheme shall be sent in each year to the Secretary of the Nomination Committee as

early as possible after it has been adopted by the General Committee, and in no case later than ten days before the opening of the next Representative Session of the Conference.

EDUCATION.

The GENERAL COMMITTEE shall consist of—

i. *Ex-officio* Members,—namely, the President and the Secretary of the Conference; the ex-President; the Treasurers; the Secretary of the Committee; the Principals of the Westminster and Southlands Training Colleges; the Secretary of the Connexional Sunday School Union; the Principal of the Children's Home; the Connexional Editor; and the Book Steward:

ii. Twenty-four Ministers and thirty Laymen residing in the London Districts, with—

iii. One Minister and one Layman from each District in Great Britain, to be nominated by each District Synod at its Meeting in May. (In the choice of these nominees it is desirable that regard should be had to the relations of the Committee both to Day School and Sunday School work.)

iv. Eight Ministers and eight Laymen residing in other than the London Districts (1891, p. 297).

The names of the nominees of the District Synods shall be sent to the Secretary of the Education Committee immediately after the May District Synod. He shall report them to the Education Committee at its Meeting next before the Conference, when the twenty-four Ministers and thirty Laymen named in section ii. above shall be recommended for nomination. As soon as possible after the Meeting, and not later than ten days before the opening of the next Representative Session of the Conference, the Secretary of the Committee shall forward to the Secretaries of the Nomination Committee a complete list of the persons who are recommended for nomina-

tion to the Conference (together with a list of *ex-officio* Members), for appointment upon the Education Committee for the ensuing year.

THE CHILDREN'S HOME AND ORPHANAGE.

The GENERAL COMMITTEE shall consist of—

i. *Ex-officio* Members,—namely, the President and the Secretary of the Conference; the *ex-President*; the Principal; the Vice-Principal; the General Treasurers; the Treasurers of the Local Branches; the Honorary Secretaries:

ii. Ministers and Laymen, who shall be Members of the Executive Committee of one of the Branches of the Institution, with—

iii. Nine Ministers and nine Laymen not appointed by the Conference upon any of the Executive Committees.

The Ministers and Laymen mentioned in groups ii. and iii. shall be recommended for nomination to the Conference by the General Committee, and one moiety of the number of Ministerial and Lay Members of the General Committee shall be nominated and appointed from among the Members of the Education Committee resident in or near London.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES FOR THE SEVERAL BRANCHES, as appointed annually by the Conference, shall each consist of one or more Lay Treasurers, the Principal, the Vice-Principal, two Ministers and two Laymen who shall be Members of the General Committee, together with five Ministers and five Laymen who need not be Members of the General Committee.

Each of these Executive Committees shall forward to the General Committee for consideration at its Meeting next before each Conference, the names of Ministers and Laymen whom it suggests that the General Committee should recommend for nomination to the Conference, as Members of that Executive Committee.

The names of the Members of these Executive Committees, who are appointed by the Conference, shall be printed in the

Minutes of Conference for the year; and each Executive Committee so appointed shall have power to add to itself, subject to the approval of the General Committee, Ministers or other persons, not exceeding five in number.

The General Committee, after having received and considered at its Meeting next before the Conference in each year, the lists of names sent forward to it from the Executive Committees of the several Branches, shall prepare and forward to the Nomination Committee a complete Nomination Scheme, showing the names of Ministers and Laymen whom it recommends for nomination to the Conference for appointment, either upon the General Committee, or upon the four Executive Committees named.

The above-mentioned Nomination Scheme shall be sent in each year to the Secretaries of the Nomination Committee, as early as possible after it has been adopted by the General Committee, and in no case later than ten days before the next Representative Session of the Conference. See pp. 420, 421.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

THE GENERAL COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT shall consist of—

i. *Ex-officio* Members,—namely, the President and the Secretary of the Conference; the ex-President; the General Treasurers; the General Secretaries; the Honorary Secretary (if any); the Secretary of the Home Mission Committee; the General Treasurers and the General Secretary of the Theological Institution; the Governor, Theological Tutor, Senior Classical Tutor, the Treasurers and Secretary of the Richmond Branch of the Institution:

ii. Eighteen Ministers and twenty-eight Laymen, to be chosen for nomination and appointment from not fewer than twelve Provincial Districts, with—

iii. Sixteen Ministers and twenty Laymen resident in the London Districts.

N.B.—The Treasurer of any District Auxiliary Society in Great Britain, and the Chairman of any District, who may be in London at the time of holding any Meeting of the General Committee, shall be entitled to sit and vote with the Committee; and the Treasurer, or Treasurers, of the London Districts Auxiliary Societies shall be regularly summoned to the Committee.

The Ministers and Laymen referred to in groups ii. and iii. above shall be recommended for nomination to the Conference by the General Committee at its Meeting next before the Conference in each year; and a list of the Ministers and Laymen so recommended shall be sent to the Secretary of the Nomination Committee in each year as early as possible after it has been adopted, and in no case later than ten days before the next Representative Session of the Conference.

The Conference resolves—

(1) To amend the Clause in the “Laws and Regulations of the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society,” so as to bring it into accord with the foregoing proposals, and to rescind the following words at the end of the same Clause X., namely:—“Those of the Methodist Ministers who are Annual Subscribers to the Missions of One Guinea, and one Treasurer, Secretary, or other principal Member from every District Auxiliary Society who may be in London occasionally, shall be entitled to meet and vote with the Committee.”

(2) To amend Clause XI. of the “Laws and Regulations,” so as to bring it into accord with the foregoing proposals, and with the general Regulation respecting the retirement of Ministers, and the retirement of Laymen by rotation from Connexional Committees, now submitted to the Conference.

V.

The Conference adopts the following REGULATIONS respecting the constitution and appointment of “THE COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES AND THE COMMITTEE OF EXIGENCY,” THE COM-

MITTEE OF THE AUXILIARY FUND, THE COMMITTEE FOR PROMOTING THE RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE OF THE LORD'S DAY, AND THE TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE, namely :—

(i.) That Members of Society, whether they are Members of the Conference in its Representative Session or not, shall be eligible for appointment upon the Committees named above.

(ii.) That the President and the Secretary of the Conference, and the ex-President, shall be *ex-officio* Members of the Committees named above.

(iii.) That each of the Committees named above shall ordinarily consist of an equal number of Ministers (in addition to the President) and of Laymen.

(iv.) That no Minister who is not an *ex-officio* Member of the Committee of the Auxiliary Fund, or of the Committee for Promoting the Religious Observance of the Lord's Day, or of the Temperance Committee, shall remain upon either Committee as a Member during more than six consecutive years, unless he shall have been nominated for further appointment thereon by the vote of four-fifths of the Members of the Committee present.

(v.) That the Standing Order (No. 16) of the Conference (*Minutes*, 1880, p. 264), as amended in accordance with a preceding Resolution, shall be so further amended as that Members of the Committee named in the foregoing Regulation (iv.) shall be included in its provisions.

(vi.) That the Conference shall annually appoint the Members (not being *ex-officio* Members) of the Committees named above after receiving the Report of the Nomination Committee.

The Treasurers shall be appointed by the Conference after receiving the Nominations of the respective Committees.

THE COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES AND THE COMMITTEE OF
EXIGENCY.

The Conference resolves that in future Q. XX.¹ in the Minutes of Conference and the answer thereto shall be worded as follows :—

Q. XX. What are the COMMITTEES FOR GUARDING OUR PRIVILEGES during the ensuing year?

A. (i.) The ORDINARY COMMITTEE; which shall have full power to take action in all cases affecting our Connexional or public interests, unless in its judgment, or in the judgment of the President of the Conference, it is deemed expedient to refer any case to the Extraordinary Committee named below. The Ordinary Committee shall meet whenever it is convened either by direction of the President of the Conference or by its Secretaries.

(ii.) The EXTRAORDINARY COMMITTEE; which shall have full power to take action in all cases affecting our Connexional interests, and shall meet whenever the Ordinary Committee or the President of the Conference shall convene it.

The ORDINARY COMMITTEE shall consist of—

i. *Ex-officio* Members,—namely, the President and Secretary of the Conference; the ex-President; the Connexional Editor; the Book Steward; two of the General Secretaries of the Missionary Society, to be recommended for nomination to the Conference by the Missionary Committee; the Secretary of the Education Committee; the Secretary of the Chapel Committee; the Secretary of the Metropolitan Chapel Building Committee; the General Secretary of the Home Mission Fund Committee; the Secretary of the Lord's Day Committee; the Secretary of the Fund for the Extension of Methodism in Great Britain; the Senior Secretary of the Temperance Committee; the Lay General Treasurer of the Missionary Society; one of

¹ The number of the Question in the Minutes varies.

the Lay Treasurers of the Education Fund, to be recommended for nomination to the Conference by the Education Committee ; the Senior Lay Treasurer of the Chapel Committee ; the Lay Treasurer of the Home Mission Fund, and the Lay Treasurer of the Fund for the Extension of Methodism in Great Britain :

ii. So many Ministers (in addition to the President) as will make the total number of Ministerial Members of the Committee to be twenty-five. The Nomination Committee shall annually nominate these additional Ministers to the Conference for appointment, of whom not fewer than six shall be resident in or near London ; and—

iii. So many Laymen as will make the total number of Lay Members of the Committee to be twenty-five. The Nomination Committee shall annually nominate the additional Lay Members to the Conference for appointment, of whom not fewer than twelve shall be resident in or near London.

Not later than ten days before the opening of the Session of the Representative Conference in each year, the Secretaries of the Missionary Committee shall forward to the Secretaries of the Nomination Committee the names of the General Secretaries recommended for nomination to the Conference as *ex-officio* Members of this Committee, and the Secretary of the Education Committee shall also forward in like manner the name of the Lay Treasurer of the Education Fund nominated for appointment as an *ex-officio* Member.

N.B.—The following Ministers and Laymen shall act as a Sub-Committee of the Ordinary Committee, and shall meet once a quarter, or oftener if necessary, in order to consider any cases of alleged grievance or other matters of exigency which may arise. This Sub-Committee shall be convened quarterly, or oftener, by the Secretaries of the Ordinary Committee. The President of the Conference shall have power to direct that it be convened at any time. It shall consist of the President and Secretary of the Conference, the ex-President, three Lay Members of the Ordinary Committee, to be appointed by the

Conference on receiving the recommendation of the Nomination Committee, and the Secretaries of the Ordinary Committee.

Superintendent Ministers are directed to report to the Secretaries all cases of alleged grievance within their Circuits so soon as such cases are alleged to have arisen.

The EXTRAORDINARY COMMITTEE shall consist of—

- i. All the Members of the Ordinary Committee :
- ii. The Chairmen of Districts :
- iii. Thirty-four Laymen : to be nominated for appointment to the Conference by the Nomination Committee from the Lay Representatives to the Conference elected by the several District Synods, one Layman being nominated from among the Representatives of each District ; and—
- iv. The Lay General Treasurers of Connexional Funds who are not otherwise appointed to be Members of this Committee.

THE WORN-OUT MINISTERS' AND MINISTERS' WIDOWS' AUXILIARY FUND.

The COMMITTEE of this Fund shall consist of—

- i. *Ex-officio* Members,—namely, the President and the Secretary of the Conference ; the ex-President ; the Treasurers and Secretary of the Fund :
- ii. Twenty-two Ministers, of whom fifteen shall be annually chosen for nomination to the Conference by the Nomination Committee from among Chairmen of Districts, and seven shall be recommended for nomination to the Conference by the Committee of the Fund ; and—
- iii. Twenty-five Laymen, of whom eighteen shall be annually chosen for nomination to the Conference by the Nomination Committee from among the Lay Representatives elected by the several District Synods, and seven shall be recommended for nomination to the Conference by the Committee of the Fund.

Not later than ten days before the opening of the Session of the Representative Conference in each year, the Secretary of

the Fund shall forward to the Secretaries of the Nomination Committee the names of the seven Ministers and the seven Laymen whom the Committee of the Auxiliary Fund recommend for nomination to the Conference as Members of the Committee.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE OF THE LORD'S DAY.

The COMMITTEE shall consist of—

i. *Ex-officio* Members,—namely, the President and the Secretary of Conference; the ex-President; the Secretaries of the Temperance Committee, and the Secretaries of the Committee:

ii. Twenty-one Ministers, of whom not fewer than twelve shall be resident in or near London; and—

iii. Twenty-five Laymen, of whom not fewer than twelve shall be resident in or near London.

The twenty-one Ministers and the twenty-five Laymen above named shall be recommended for nomination to the Conference by the Lord's Day Committee, and the Secretaries of that Committee shall forward the names of the said Ministers and Laymen to the Secretaries of the Nomination Committee not later than ten days before the opening of the Session of the Representative Conference in each year.

TEMPERANCE.

The COMMITTEE shall consist of—

i. *Ex-officio* Members,—namely, the President and the Secretary of the Conference; the ex-President; the Secretary and Lay Treasurer of the Committee; the Book Steward; the Connexional Editor; the Secretary of the Connexional Sunday School Union; one of the Secretaries of the Lord's Day Observance Committee, and the Secretary of the Social Purity Committee:

ii. Sixteen Ministers and twenty Laymen, to be recommended

for nomination to the Conference by the Temperance Committee, not fewer than four of the said Ministers and six of the said Laymen being resident in or near London. In the selection and appointment of the Ministers and Laymen named in this Clause (ii.), due regard shall be had to the Regulation 1, p. 210, Minutes of Conference, 1875; with a view to the constitution of the Committee in accordance with that Regulation.

Not later than ten days before the opening of the Representative Session of Conference in each year, the Secretaries of the Temperance Committee shall forward to the Secretaries of the Nomination Committee the names of the sixteen Ministers and twenty Laymen who are recommended by the Committee for nomination to the Conference.

The following Committees have been appointed since the Scheme for the Nomination and Constitution of Mixed Connexional Committees was adopted by the Conference in the years 1881 and 1882 :—

SOCIAL PURITY.

The Committee consists of—

i. The *ex-officio* Members,—the President and Secretary of the Conference; the ex-President; the Treasurer and Secretary of the Committee.

ii. Ministers and Laymen annually appointed by the Conference, the number not being fixed (1884, pp. 276, 277).

METHODIST SETTLEMENT IN LONDON.

The Committee consists of—

i. The *ex-officio* Members,—the President and Secretary of the Conference; the ex-President; the Treasurer and Secretary of the Committee.

ii. A number of Ministers and Laymen annually appointed by the Conference, the number not being fixed (1896, pp. 309, 310).

CONNEXIONAL LOCAL PREACHERS' COMMITTEE.

The Committee consists of—

The President and Secretary of the Conference; the ex-President; the Officers of the Committee; together with an equal number of Ministers and Local Preachers (1894, pp. 314, 315).

For *District Local Preachers' Committee*, see pp. 219, 220.

LONDON WESLEYAN METHODIST MISSION.

For the Constitution of the Committee, see p. 295.

MANCHESTER AND SALFORD MISSION.

See p. 298.

SCHEDULES FROM DEPARTMENTS.

As it is obviously desirable that the Committees appointed by the Conference to manage the several Departments of the business of the Connexion, in the intervals of its Session, should be furnished with all necessary statistical information on the matters of business severally confided to their care, the Conference authorises them, through their appointed Officers, to send, when they deem it expedient, suitable Circulars and Schedules to the Superintendents, or to the Chairmen of Districts, as the case may require; and directs the Superintendents and Chairmen duly to return such Schedules properly filled up (1840, vol. ix. p. 105).

APPENDICES



- I.—MR. WESLEY'S DEED OF DECLARATION, OR
DEED POLL.
- II.—THE "FORM OF DISCIPLINE" OR "CODE OF
LAWS," ISSUED BY THE CONFERENCE OF
1797.
- III.—RESOLUTIONS ON PASTORAL WORK.
- IV.—OTHER LEADING RESOLUTIONS OF THE
CONFERENCE ON PASTORAL DUTIES
AND THE PROMOTION OF SPIRITUAL
RELIGION.
- V.—THE CHAPEL MODEL DEED.
- VI.—RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE ITINER-
ANT METHODIST PREACHERS' ANNUIT-
ANT SOCIETY.

APPENDIX I

DEED OF DECLARATION, OR DEED POLL, OF THE REVEREND JOHN WESLEY.

TO all to whom these presents shall come, John Wesley, late of Lincoln College, Oxford, but now of the City Road, London, clerk, sendeth greeting.

WHEREAS divers buildings commonly called chapels, with a messuage and dwelling-house or other appurtenances to each of the same belonging, situate in various parts of Great Britain, have been given and conveyed from time to time by the said John Wesley to certain persons and their heirs in each of the said gifts and conveyances named, which are inrolled in His Majesty's High Court of Chancery, upon the acknowledgment of the said John Wesley, pursuant to the Act of Parliament in that case made and provided, upon trust that the Trustees in the said several deeds respectively named, and the survivors of them, and their heirs and assigns, and the Trustees for the time being to be elected, as in the said deeds is appointed, should permit and suffer the said John Wesley, and such other person and persons as he should for that purpose from time to time nominate and appoint, at all times during his life at his will and pleasure, to have and enjoy the free use and benefit of the said premises, that he the said John Wesley, and such person or persons as he should nominate and appoint, might therein preach and expound God's Holy Word; and upon further trust that the said respective Trustees, and the survivors of them, and their heirs and assigns, and the Trustees for the time being, should permit and suffer Charles Wesley, brother of the said John Wesley, and such other person and persons as the said Charles Wesley should for that

purpose from time to time nominate and appoint, in like manner during his life, to have, use, and enjoy the said premises respectively for the like purposes as aforesaid, and after the decease of the survivor of them the said John Wesley and Charles Wesley, then upon further trust that the said respective Trustees, and the survivors of them, and their heirs and assigns, and the Trustees for the time being for ever, should permit and suffer such person and persons, and for such time and times as should be appointed at the Yearly Conference of the people called Methodists in London, Bristol, or Leeds, and no others, to have and enjoy the said premises for the purposes aforesaid: And whereas divers persons have in like manner given or conveyed many chapels, with messuages and dwelling-houses or other appurtenances to the same belonging, situate in various parts of Great Britain, and also in Ireland, to certain Trustees in each of the said gifts and conveyances respectively named, upon the like trusts and for the same uses and purposes as aforesaid (except only that in some of the said gifts and conveyances no life estate or other interest is therein or thereby given and reserved to the said Charles Wesley): And whereas, for rendering effectual the trusts created by the said several gifts or conveyances, and that no doubt or litigation may arise with respect unto the same or the interpretation and true meaning thereof, it has been thought expedient by the said John Wesley, on behalf of himself as donor of the several chapels, with the messuages, dwelling-houses, or appurtenances before mentioned, as of the donors of the said other chapels, with the messuages, dwelling-houses, or appurtenances to the same belonging, given or conveyed to the like uses and trusts, to explain the words Yearly Conference of the people called Methodists contained in all the said trust-deeds, and to declare what persons are members of the said Conference, and how the succession and identity thereof is to be continued:

Now, therefore, these presents witness, that for accomplishing the aforesaid purposes the said John Wesley doth hereby declare that the Conference of the people called Methodists in London, Bristol, or Leeds, ever since there hath been any Yearly Conference of the said people called Methodists in any of the said places, hath always heretofore consisted of the preachers and expounders of God's Holy Word, commonly

called Methodist Preachers, in connexion with and under the care of the said John Wesley, whom he hath thought expedient year after year to summons to meet him in one or other of the said places of London, Bristol, or Leeds, to advise with them for the promotion of the Gospel of Christ, to appoint the said persons so summoned, and the other preachers and expounders of God's Holy Word, also in connexion with and under the care of the said John Wesley, not summoned to the said Yearly Conference, to the use and enjoyment of the said chapels and premises so given and conveyed upon trust for the said John Wesley, and such other person and persons as he should appoint during his life as aforesaid, and for the expulsion of unworthy and admission of new persons under his care and into his Connexion to be preachers and expounders as aforesaid, and also of other persons upon trial for the like purposes, the names of all which persons so summoned by the said John Wesley, the persons appointed, with the chapels and premises to which they were so appointed, together with the duration of such appointments, and of those expelled or admitted into Connexion or upon trial, with all other matters transacted and done at the said Yearly Conference, have year by year been printed and published under the title of Minutes of Conference; and these presents further witness, and the said John Wesley doth hereby avouch and further declare, that the several persons hereinafter named, to wit [*here follow the names and descriptions of one hundred persons*], being preachers and expounders of God's Holy Word under the care and in connexion with the said John Wesley, have been and now are and do on the day of the date hereof constitute the members of the said Conference according to the true intent and meaning of the said several gifts and conveyances wherein the words Conference of the people called Methodists are mentioned and contained, and that the said several persons before named and their successors for ever, to be chosen as hereafter mentioned, are and shall for ever be construed, taken, and be the Conference of the people called Methodists, nevertheless upon the terms and subject to the regulations hereinafter prescribed: (that is to say,)

First, That the members of the said Conference, and their successors for the time being for ever, shall assemble once in

every year at London, Bristol, or Leeds (except as after mentioned) for the purposes aforesaid, and the time and place of holding every subsequent Conference shall be appointed at the preceding one, save that the next Conference after the date hereof shall be holden at Leeds, in Yorkshire, the last Tuesday in July next.

Second, The act of the majority in number of the Conference assembled as aforesaid shall be had, taken, and be the act of the whole Conference to all intents, purposes, and construction whatsoever.

Third, That after the Conference shall be assembled as aforesaid, they shall first proceed to fill up all the vacancies occasioned by death or absence as after mentioned.

Fourth, No act of the Conference assembled as aforesaid shall be had, taken, or be the act of the Conference until forty of the members thereof are assembled, unless reduced under that number by death since the prior Conference or absence as after mentioned, nor until all the vacancies occasioned by death or absence shall be filled up by the election of new members of the Conference so as to make up the number one hundred, unless there be not a sufficient number of persons objects of such election, and during the assembly of the Conference there shall always be forty members present at the doing of any act, save as aforesaid, or otherwise, such act shall be void.

Fifth, The duration of the yearly assembly of the Conference shall not be less than five days nor more than three weeks, and be concluded by the appointment of the Conference if under twenty-one days, or otherwise the conclusion thereof shall follow of course at the end of the said twenty-one days, the whole of all which said time of the assembly of the Conference shall be had, taken, considered, and be the Yearly Conference of the people called Methodists, and all acts of the Conference during such yearly assembly thereof shall be the acts of the Conference, and none other.

Sixth, Immediately after all the vacancies occasioned by death or absence are filled up by the election of new members as aforesaid, the Conference shall choose a President and Secretary of their assembly out of themselves, who shall continue such until the election of another President or Secretary in the next or other subsequent Conference, and

the said President shall have the privilege and power of two members in all acts of the Conference during his presidency, and such other powers, privileges, and authorities as the Conference shall, from time to time, see fit to entrust into his hands.

Seventh, Any member of the Conference absenting himself from the yearly assembly thereof for two years successively without the consent or dispensation of the Conference, and be not present on the first day of the third yearly assembly thereof at the time and place appointed for the holding of the same, shall cease to be a member of the Conference from and after the said first day of the said third yearly assembly thereof to all intents and purposes as though he were naturally dead; but the Conference shall and may dispense with or consent to the absence of any member from any of the said yearly assemblies for any cause which the Conference may see fit or necessary, and such member, whose absence shall be so dispensed with or consented to by the Conference, shall not by such absence cease to be a member thereof.

Eighth, The Conference shall and may expel and put out from being a member thereof, or from being in connexion therewith, or from being upon trial, any person member of the Conference or admitted into connexion, or upon trial, for any cause which to the Conference may seem fit or necessary, and every member of the Conference so expelled and put out shall cease to be a member thereof to all intents and purposes as though he was naturally dead, and the Conference immediately after the expulsion of any member thereof as aforesaid shall elect another person to be a member of the Conference in the stead of such member so expelled.

Ninth, The Conference shall and may admit into connexion with them, or upon trial, any person or persons whom they shall approve to be preachers and expounders of God's Holy Word, under the care and direction of the Conference, the name of every such person or persons so admitted into connexion, or upon trial as aforesaid, with the time and degrees of the admission, being entered in the Journals or Minutes of the Conference.

Tenth, No person shall be elected a member of the Conference who hath not been admitted into connexion with the

Conference as a preacher and expounder of God's Holy Word as aforesaid for twelve months.

Eleventh, The Conference shall not nor may nominate or appoint any person to the use and enjoyment of or to preach and expound God's Holy Word in any of the chapels and premises so given or conveyed, or which may be given or conveyed upon the trusts aforesaid, who is not either a member of the Conference or admitted into connexion with the same, or upon trial as aforesaid, nor appoint any person for more than three years successively to the use and enjoyment of any chapel and premises already given or to be given or conveyed upon the trusts aforesaid, except ordained ministers of the Church of England.

Twelfth, That the Conference shall and may appoint the place of holding the yearly assembly thereof, at any other city, town, or place than London, Bristol, or Leeds, when it shall seem expedient so to do.

Thirteenth, And for the convenience of the chapels and premises already or which may hereafter be given or conveyed upon the trusts aforesaid, situate in Ireland or other parts out of the Kingdom of Great Britain, the Conference shall and may, when and as often as it shall seem expedient, but not otherwise, appoint and delegate any member or members of the Conference with all or any of the powers, privileges, and advantages hereinbefore contained or vested in the Conference, and all and every the acts, admissions, expulsions, and appointments whatsoever of such member or members of the Conference so appointed and delegated as aforesaid, the same being put into writing and signed by such delegate or delegates, and entered in the Journals or Minutes of the Conference, and subscribed as after mentioned, shall be deemed, taken, and be the acts, admissions, expulsions, and appointments of the Conference to all intents, constructions, and purposes whatsoever from the respective times when the same shall be done by such delegate or delegates, notwithstanding anything herein contained to the contrary.

Fourteenth, All resolutions and orders touching elections, admissions, expulsions, consents, dispensations, delegations, or appointments and acts whatsoever of the Conference shall be entered and written in the Journals or Minutes of the Con-

ference, which shall be kept for that purpose, publicly read, and then subscribed by the President and Secretary thereof for the time being, during the time such Conference shall be assembled, and when so entered and subscribed shall be had, taken, received, and be the acts of the Conference, and such entry and subscription as aforesaid shall be had, taken, received, and be evidence of all and every such acts of the said Conference and of their said delegates without the aid of any other proof, and whatever shall not be so entered and subscribed as aforesaid shall not be had, taken, received, or be the act of the Conference; and the said President and Secretary are hereby required and obliged to enter and subscribe as aforesaid every act whatever of the Conference.

Lastly, Whenever the said Conference shall be reduced under the number of forty members, and continue so reduced for three yearly assemblies thereof successively, or whenever the members thereof shall decline or neglect to meet together annually for the purposes aforesaid during the space of three years, and then and in either of the said events the Conference of the people called Methodists shall be extinguished, and all the aforesaid powers, privileges, and advantages shall cease, and the said chapels and premises, and all other chapels and premises which now are or hereafter may be settled, given, or conveyed upon the trusts aforesaid, shall vest in the Trustees for the time being of the said chapels and premises respectively, and their successors for ever; upon trust that they and the survivors of them, and the Trustees for the time being, do, shall, and may appoint such person or persons to preach and expound God's Holy Word therein, and to have the use and enjoyment thereof, for such time and in such manner as to them shall seem proper.

Provided always, that nothing herein contained shall extend or be construed to extend to extinguish, lessen, or abridge the life estate of the said John Wesley and Charles Wesley, or either of them, of and in any of the said chapels and premises, or any other chapels and premises, wherein they, the said John Wesley and Charles Wesley, or either of them, now have or may have any estate or interest, power or authority whatsoever.

In witness thereof the said John Wesley hath hereunto set

his hand and seal, the twenty-eighth day of February in the twenty-fourth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third, by the grace of God of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, and so forth, and in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty four,

JOHN WESLEY.

Sealed and delivered (being first duly stamped) in the presence of	{	WILLIAM CLULOW, Quality Court, Chancery Lane, London. RICHARD YOUNG, Clerk to the said William Clulow.
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Taken and acknowledged by the Rev. John Wesley, party hereto, this 28th of February 1784, at the Public Office before me,

EDWARD MONTAGU.

APPENDIX II

THE "FORM OF DISCIPLINE" OR "CODE OF LAWS," ISSUED
BY THE CONFERENCE OF 1797.

Prefatory Note.

IT appears desirable to insert in this work the important document issued by the Conference of 1797, and referred to in the Chancery proceedings of 1835 (*Warren v. Burton*), being described by the letter F. Of that document the Rev. Thomas Jackson, then the Connexional Editor, wrote as follows in 1835:—

In the printed Minutes of the Conference for the year 1797 (see the authorised edition, vol. i. p. 377) there is the following announcement:—"Whereas, we, the undersigned, have, on this and the preceding day, carefully revised the Rules drawn up and left us by our late venerable Father in the Gospel, the Rev. Mr Wesley, which were published by him in our Large Minutes, to which we consented when we were admitted, and by which we were regulated during his life; and whereas we have collected together those Rules which we believe to be essential to the existence of Methodism, as well as others, to which we have no objection, we do now VOLUNTARILY and in GOOD FAITH sign our names, as approving of, and engaging to comply with, the aforesaid Collection of Rules or Code of Laws, God being our helper." (Signed) "THOMAS COKE, *President*, SAMUEL BRADBURN, *Secretary*," and by WILLIAM THOMPSON, ALEXANDER MATHER, JOHN PAWSON, JOSEPH BENSON, THOMAS TAYLOR, JOSEPH BRADFORD, JOHN BARBER, JAMES WOOD, HENRY MOORE, JOSEPH TAYLOR, WALTER GRIFFITH, JOHN GAULTER, JOSEPH ENTWISLE, JONATHAN CROWTHER, JONATHAN EDMONDSON, CHARLES ATMORE, RICHARD REECE, and other Preachers present at that Conference.

In the Minutes of the same year (vol. i. pp. 390-395) there is an Address to the Methodist Societies, dated Leeds, August 7, 1797, and officially signed, "in behalf and by order of the Conference," by "Thomas Coke, *President*," and "Samuel Bradburn, *Secretary*." That Address contains seven distinct heads or articles; the fifth of which (see vol. i. p. 392) is as follows, and refers to the "Collection of Rules or Code of Laws" above mentioned, as having been then made and signed by the Preachers present:—"V. We have selected all our ancient Rules, which were made before the death of our late venerable Father in the Gospel, the Rev. Mr. Wesley, which are essential Rules, or prudential at this present time; and have solemnly signed them, declaring our approbation of them, and determination to comply with them; one single Preacher excepted, who, in consequence, withdrew from us."

The "Collection of Rules," thus "selected," "revised," and "signed," and brought down to the year 1797, inclusive, was, by order of the Conference, published in that year in a pamphlet, under the following title:—"Minutes of several Conversations between the Rev. John Wesley, A.M., and the Preachers in Connexion with him. Containing the Form of Discipline established among the Preachers and People in the Methodist Societies.—London: Printed for G. Whitfield, City Road; and Sold at all the Methodist Preaching-houses in Town and Country. 1779."

The date of 1779, thus given to the pamphlet, is manifestly and indisputably a misprint, and ought to have been, according to the undoubted fact, 1797.

This pamphlet, legally verified by affidavit on oath, was produced during certain recent proceedings in Chancery, and recognised as a "Code," both by the Vice-Chancellor, and subsequently by the Lord Chancellor, in their very important "judgments" upon the case then under adjudication. The latter observed, "They (the Conference) published what they considered to be the Code of the Laws of Methodism, in the year 1797, and they sign that Code with their names. That very Code has been given in evidence; it is the document described by the letter F."

Of the original pamphlet, whose history and authority have been thus stated, the present publication is an exact and

faithful re-print. The only known variation is the insertion of the true date, instead of the one which a typographical error had introduced in the title-page of the first edition.

THOMAS JACKSON, *Editor*.

LONDON,
July 13th, 1835.

When this pamphlet was reprinted in 1850, the Editors appended the following Postscript to Mr. Jackson's statement:—

It should be recollected by the reader, that this pamphlet professes to contain those Rules and Regulations *only* which were in existence and operation up to the year 1797. Many of these have undergone important modifications or been wholly superseded since that time; and various others have been adopted by successive Conferences. . . . In a few instances the alterations since 1797 above mentioned have been intimated, in this edition of the "Code," by a note at the foot of the page; but in many cases this could not be conveniently accomplished at present.

In transferring this Document to these pages, the *changes* which have been made by more recent legislation are indicated in very many instances by footnotes. Two sections—but *only* two—have been omitted, as being now *entirely set aside*. The first (No. XXX.) is on "The Rules of the Preachers' Fund," now superseded by the "Itinerant Methodist Preachers' Annuitant Society" and the "Worn-out Ministers' and Ministers' Widows' Auxiliary Fund." (See Part III. Chapter XIV. of the present work.) The second section omitted (No. XXXIII.), entitled, "How to Preserve the Chapels," has been superseded by the adoption by the Conference of the "Chapel Model Deed." In all other respects the Document is given *verbatim*.

MINUTES OF SEVERAL CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN THE REV. JOHN WESLEY, A.M., AND THE PREACHERS IN CONNEXION WITH HIM. CONTAINING THE FORM OF DISCIPLINE ESTABLISHED AMONG THE PREACHERS AND PEOPLE IN THE METHODIST SOCIETIES. LONDON: PRINTED FOR GEORGE WHITFIELD,

CITY ROAD; AND SOLD AT ALL THE METHODIST PREACHING-HOUSES IN TOWN AND COUNTRY. 1797.

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MINUTES, ETC.

It is desired that all things be considered as in the immediate presence of God.

That every person speak freely whatever is in his mind.

While we are conversing let us have an especial care to set God always before us. In the intermediate hours let us redeem all the time we can for private exercises, and let us give ourselves to prayer for one another, and for a blessing on this our labour.

SECTION I.

THE DESIGN OF GOD IN SENDING THE METHODIST PREACHERS.

Q. 1. In what view may the Methodist Preachers be considered?

A. As messengers sent by the Lord, out of the common way, to provoke the regular Clergy to jealousy, and to supply their lack of service towards those who are perishing for want of knowledge ; and, above all, to reform the nation, by spreading Scriptural holiness over the land.

II. THE RISE OF METHODISM.

Q. 2. What was the rise of Methodism, so called?

A. In 1729 the late Mr. Wesley and his brother, upon reading the Bible, saw they could not be saved without holiness ;

they followed after it, and incited others to do the same. In 1737 they saw holiness comes by faith. They saw likewise, that men are justified before they are sanctified: but still holiness was their point.

God then thrust them out, utterly against their will, to raise a holy people. When Satan could no otherwise hinder this, he threw Antinomianism in the way, which strikes directly at the root of all holiness.

III. THE METHOD OF TRYING CANDIDATES FOR THE MINISTRY.

Q. 3. How shall we try those who think they are moved by the Holy Ghost to preach the Gospel?

A. Inquire, Do they know God as a pardoning God? Have they the love of God abiding in them? Do they desire and seek nothing but God? And are they holy in all manner of conversation? Have they gifts as well as grace for the work? Have they a clear, sound understanding? Have they a right judgment in the things of God? Have they a just conception of salvation by faith? And has God given them an acceptable way of speaking? Do they speak justly, readily, and clearly? Have they had any fruit of their labour? Have any been truly convinced of sin, and converted to God, by their preaching?

As long as the above marks concur in any one, we believe he is called of God to preach. These we receive as sufficient proof that he is moved thereto by the Holy Ghost.

But before any one can be received even upon trial among us, it is necessary that he should have been a member of the Society for some considerable time; that he should have acted as a Local Preacher; that he should be recommended by the Quarterly Meeting to the District Meeting, and by that to the Conference;—and at the Conference in 1797 it was agreed, that, before any Superintendent propose any Preacher to the Conference as proper to be admitted on trial, such Preacher must not only be approved of at the March Quarterly Meeting, but must have read and signed the General Minutes, as fully approving of them; nor must any one suppose, or pretend to think, that the Conversations which have been on any of these Minutes were intended to qualify them, as in the

least to affect the spirit and design of them ;—that he should then travel four years upon trial, during which time he must not marry ; and being well recommended by the people where he has laboured, and by the Preachers who have laboured with him, he shall then be received into Full Connexion. The proper time for doing this is at a Conference. After serious, solemn prayer, the following questions shall be proposed to each Candidate, which he shall be required to answer as in the presence of God :—

"Have you a lively faith in Christ? Do you enjoy a clear manifestation of the love of God to your soul? Have you constant power over all sin? Do you expect to be perfected in love in this life? Do you really desire and earnestly seek it? Are you resolved to devote yourself wholly to God and to His work? Do you know the Methodist Plan of Doctrine and Discipline? Have you read the Plain Account of the Methodists ; the Appeals to Men of Reason and Religion? Do you know the Rules of the Society, and of the Bands? are you determined, by the help of God, to keep them? Do you take no snuff, tobacco, or drams? Have you read and seriously considered the Minutes of the Conference? Especially have you considered the Rules of a Helper? and, above all, the first, tenth, and twelfth? And will you keep them for conscience sake? Are you determined to employ all your time in the work of God? Will you preach every morning and evening when opportunity serves, endeavouring not to speak too long or too loud? Will you diligently instruct the children where you can? Will you visit from house to house where it may be done? Will you recommend fasting and prayer, both by precept and example? Are you in debt?"

Having answered the above questions to our satisfaction, we then give him the Minutes of the Conference inscribed thus :—

"To A. B.

"You think it your duty to call sinners to repentance. Make full proof hereof, and we shall rejoice to receive you as a fellow-labourer."¹

¹ It was Mr. Wesley's practice to give a copy of the Minutes thus inscribed to each Preacher, when he was admitted on trial. When he

IV. THE OFFICE AND DUTY OF A METHODIST PREACHER.

Q. 4. What is the office of a Christian Minister?

A. To watch over souls as he that must give account; to feed and guide the flock.

Q. 5. How shall he be fully qualified for this great work?

A. By walking closely with God, and having His work greatly at heart; by understanding and loving every branch of our Discipline; and by carefully and constantly observing the Twelve Rules of an Helper, viz.—

The Twelve Rules of a Helper.

1. Be diligent. Never be unemployed. Never be triflingly employed. Never *while* away time, nor spend more time at any place than is strictly necessary.

2. Be serious. Let your motto be, "Holiness to the Lord." Avoid all lightness, jesting, and foolish talking.

3. Converse sparingly and cautiously with women, particularly with young women.

4. Take no step towards marriage without solemn prayer to God, and consulting with your brethren.

5. Believe evil of no one unless fully proved; take heed how you credit it. Put the best construction you can on everything. You know the Judge is always supposed to be on the prisoner's side.

6. Speak evil of no one; else your word, especially, would eat as doth a canker; keep your thoughts within your own breast, till you come to the person concerned.

7. Tell every one what you think wrong in him, lovingly and plainly, and as soon as may be, else it will fester in your own heart. Make all haste to cast the fire out of your bosom.

8. Do not affect the gentleman. A Preacher of the Gospel is the servant of all.

9. Be ashamed of nothing but sin; no, not of cleaning your own shoes, when necessary.

had passed acceptably through the period of his probation, and was admitted into Full Connexion with the Conference, the Minutes were presented to him with the following inscription:—"As long as you freely consent to, and earnestly endeavour to walk by, these Rules, we shall rejoice to acknowledge you as a fellow-labourer."—See Mr. Wesley's Works, vol. viii. p. 326.

10. Be punctual. Do everything exactly at the time. And do not mend our Rules, but keep them, and that for conscience sake.

11. You have nothing to do but to save souls. Therefore spend and be spent in this work. And go always, not only to those who want you, but to those who want you most.

12. Act in all things, not according to your own will, but as a son in the Gospel, and in union with your brethren. As such, it is your part to employ your time as our Rules direct; partly in preaching and visiting from house to house, partly in reading, meditation, and prayer. Above all, if you labour with us in our Lord's vineyard, it is needful that you should do that part of the work which the Conference shall advise, at those times and places which they shall judge most for His glory.

Observe: It is not your business to preach so many times, and to take care merely of this or that Society; but to save as many souls as you can; to bring as many sinners as you possibly can to repentance, and, with all your power, to build them up in that holiness without which they cannot see the Lord. And remember, a Methodist Preacher is to mind every point, great and small, in the Methodist Discipline. Therefore you will need all the grace and all the sense you have; and to have all your wits about you.

V. THE PECULIAR BUSINESS OF A SUPERINTENDENT.

Q. 6. What is the business of a Superintendent?

A. To see that the other Preachers in this Circuit behave well, and want nothing. He should consider these (especially if they are young men) as his pupils; into whose behaviour and studies he should frequently inquire; and, at proper times, should ask, Do you walk closely with God? Have you now fellowship with the Father and the Son? At what hour do you rise? Do you punctually observe the morning and evening hour of retirement? Do you spend your time profitably? Do you converse seriously, usefully, and closely? Do you use all the means of grace yourself, and enforce the use of them on all other persons? These are either Instituted or Prudential:—

I. The INSTITUTED are these.—1. *Prayer*: In private, in the

family, and in public; consisting of deprecation, petition, intercession, and thanksgiving. Do you use each of these?

Do you use private prayer every morning and evening at least; if you can, at six in the evening, and the hour before or after morning preaching? Do you forecast daily, wherever you are, how to secure these hours? Do you avow it everywhere? Do you ask everywhere, Have *you* family prayer? Do *you* retire at six o'clock?

2. *Searching the Scriptures*, by reading constantly some part every day, all the Bible, in order, carefully, seriously, and with earnest prayer before and after; and do this fruitfully, immediately practising what you learn there. (2) Meditating, at set times, by a fixed rule. (3) Hearing the Word preached at all opportunities, carefully, with earnest prayer to God for a blessing upon His Word. Have you a New Testament always about you?

3. *The Lord's Supper*. Do you use this at every opportunity? with solemn prayer, and with earnest and deliberate self-devotion?

4. *Fasting*. Do you fast every Friday? The neglect of this is sufficient to account for our feebleness and faintness of spirit. We are continually grieving the Holy Spirit by the habitual neglect of a plain duty! Let us amend from this hour. There are several degrees of fasting, which cannot hurt your health. Begin next Friday, and avow this duty wherever you go. Touch no tea, coffee, or chocolate in the morning; but, if you want it, a little milk or water-gruel. Dine on potatoes; and, if you want it, eat three or four ounces of flesh in the evening. But at other times eat no flesh-suppers. These exceedingly tend to breed nervous disorders.

5. *Christian Conference*. Are you convinced how important and how difficult it is to order your conversation aright? Is it always in grace, seasoned with salt, meet to minister grace to the hearers? Do not you converse too long at a time? Is not an hour commonly enough? Would it not be well always to have a determinate end in view? and always to conclude with prayer?

II. PRUDENTIAL MEANS we may use, either as Common Christians, or as Preachers of the Gospel.

1. *As Common Christians.* What particular rules have you in order to grow in grace? what arts of holy living?

2. *As Preachers.* Do you meet every Society, also the Leaders, and the Bands, if there are any? Do you live in holy watchfulness; denying yourself; taking up your cross; and in the exercise of the presence of God? Do you steadily watch against the world, the devil, yourself, and your besetting sin? Do you deny yourself every useless pleasure of sense, imagination, and honour? Are you temperate in all things? Instance in food: Do you use only that kind, and that degree, which is best both for your body and soul? Do you see the necessity of this? Do you eat no more at each meal than is necessary? Do you eat no flesh-suppers, and no late suppers? Do you use only that kind and degree of drink which is best both for your body and soul? Do you drink water, or wine, or ale? Do you want these?

Wherein do you take up your cross daily? Do you cheerfully bear your cross (whatever is grievous to nature) as a gift of God, and labour to profit thereby?

Do you endeavour to set God always before you? to see His eye continually fixed upon you? Never can you use these means but a blessing must ensue. And the more you use them, the more you will grow in grace.

A Superintendent ought also to visit the Classes quarterly, to regulate the Bands, and to deliver Tickets; to take in or to put out of the Society, or the Bands:—At the Conference in 1797 it was agreed, that the Leaders' Meeting shall have a right to declare any person on trial improper to be received into the Society; and after such declaration the Superintendent shall not admit such person into the Society. And no person shall be expelled from the Society for immorality till such immorality be proved at a Leaders' Meeting:—To keep Watch-nights and Lovefeasts; to hold Quarterly Meetings, and there diligently to inquire both into the temporal and spiritual state of the Societies; to take care that every Society be supplied with books; to send to London a circumstantial account of every remarkable conversion, and of every remarkable death; to take an exact list of all the Societies in his Circuit once a year; to meet the married men and women, and the single men and women, in the large

Societies, once a year; and to overlook the accounts of the Stewards.

The following advices are recommended to all the Superintendents:—

Leave your successor a regular catalogue of all the Societies in the Circuit. See that every Band-Leader has the Band-Rules. Calmly and vigorously enforce the Rules concerning needless ornaments, drains, snuff, and tobacco; give no Band-Ticket to any person who does not promise to leave them off. As soon as there are four men or women believers in any place, put them into a Band. Suffer no Lovefeast to last more than an hour and half; and instantly stop all from breaking the cake with one another. Warn all, from time to time, that none are to remove from one Society to another without a certificate from the Superintendent in these words: "A. B., the bearer, is a member of our Society in C. I believe he has a sufficient reason for removing." Everywhere recommend decency and cleanliness. Cleanliness is next to godliness. Read the Thoughts upon Dress once a year in every large Society. In visiting the Classes be very mild, but very strict. Give no Ticket to any who follow the foolish fashions of the world. Meet the Bands once a week; and keep a Lovefeast for them *only*, once a quarter. Exhort every believer to embrace the advantage. Give a Band-Ticket to none, till they have met a quarter on trial.

As we always wish to act by united counsels, and as we desire that every person in any office in our Societies should fulfil the duties of his station, it is the duty of the Superintendent to take care that the Leaders be not only men of sound judgment, but men truly devoted to God; let each of them be diligently examined concerning his method of meeting a Class. Let this be done at the quarterly visitation of the Classes. And, in order to this, allow sufficient time for the visiting of each Society.

Let each Leader carefully inquire how every soul in his Class prospers; not only how each person observes the outward Rules, but how he grows in the knowledge and love of God. Endeavour to make the meeting of the Classes lively and profitable. Therefore change improper Leaders. But, in doing this, or in appointing a new Leader, great care and

tenderness must be used; and it is highly necessary to consult the rest of the Leaders on such occasions. It was agreed at the Conference in 1797, that no person shall be appointed a Leader, or Steward, or be removed from his office, but in conjunction with the Leaders' Meeting; the nomination to be in the Superintendent, and the approbation or disapprobation in the Leaders' Meeting.

Let the Leaders frequently meet each other's Classes.

Let us observe which of the Leaders are the most useful; and let these meet the other Classes as often as possible.

VI. THE METHOD OF ADMITTING PERSONS INTO SOCIETY.

Q. 7. How shall we prevent improper persons from insinuating themselves into the Society?

A. 1. Give notes to none but those who are recommended by a person you know; or till they have met three or four times in a Class, and are recommended by the Leader.

2. Give Tickets to none till they are recommended by a Leader with whom they have met two months on trial. Give them the Rules of the Society the first time they meet.

3. In large towns, admit persons into the Society on the Sunday following the visitation of the Classes, by reading their names over; then read also the names of those who are excluded. And admit persons into the Bands at the quarterly Lovefeast after the visitation.

4. As to the exclusion of Members from the Society, the far greater number exclude themselves, by utterly forsaking us; but with respect to others, let the Rules of the Society be carefully attended to, and the Leaders be consulted on such occasions, and the crime proved to their satisfaction.

5. Let one or more of the Stewards be changed once a year. The proper time for doing this is at a Quarterly Meeting, when the Superintendent shall consult all who are present respecting who may be the most proper persons to act in that capacity.

VII. RESPECTING THE ADMISSION OF LOCAL PREACHERS, AND THEIR DUTY.

6. Respecting the admission of persons to be Local Preachers: Let the Superintendent regularly meet the Local Preachers

once a quarter; and let none be admitted but those who are proposed and approved at that meeting; and if in any Circuit this cannot be done, then let them be proposed and approved in the general Quarterly Meeting.

7. Every Local Preacher shall meet in Class, and conform to all our Rules of Discipline. Let none be excused in this respect.

Let no Local Preacher be permitted to preach in any other Circuit, without producing a recommendation from the Superintendent of that Circuit in which he lives; nor suffer any invitation to be admitted as a plea, but from men in office, with the consent of the Superintendent of that Circuit. The design of this Rule is to prevent any, under the character of a Local Preacher, from burdening the people, either by collecting money, or by living upon them; and to prevent improper persons, who bear no part of the expense, from inviting Local Preachers to visit them. But it never was intended to reflect the least disrespect on any of our worthy brethren the Local Preachers; whom, considered as a body, we greatly respect.

8. Let no Local Preacher keep Lovefeasts without the consent of the Superintendent, nor in any wise interfere with his business. Let every one keep in his own place, and attend to the duties of his station.

VIII. THE REGULAR METHOD OF HOLDING A CONFERENCE.

Q. 8. What is the method wherein we usually proceed in our Conferences?

A. 1. Elect a President and Secretary.

2. Inquire what preachers have died the preceding year?

3. What Preachers have desisted from travelling?

4. What Preachers are to be admitted?

5 Who remain on trial; and who are to be admitted on trial?

6. Inquire into the objections which may be produced against any of the Preachers, who are to be examined one by one.

7. Appoint the Preachers to their respective stations for the ensuing year.

8. What numbers are in the Societies?

9. What is the Kingswood Collection?

10. What boys are to be received into the School, and what girls to be assisted?

11. What is the Yearly Collection; and how this is expended?

12. What is contributed to the Preachers' Fund; and who are to be relieved out of it?

13. How many Preachers' wives are to be provided for; and by what Societies?

14. Where and when may the next Conference be?¹

IX. THE PROPER BUSINESS OF A HELPER.

Q. 9. What is the particular business of those Preachers who do not act as Superintendents?

A. To feed the flock, by constantly preaching morning and evening; to meet the Society and the Bands weekly; to meet the Leaders weekly; to preach every morning where he can have twenty hearers,—but where he cannot, then to sing and pray with them; and to do any other part of the work which the Superintendent may desire him to do.

Q. 10. Should any of our Preachers follow trades?

A. The question is not, whether they may not occasionally work with their hands, as St. Paul did; but whether it be proper for them to buy or sell any kind of merchandise. It is fully determined that this shall not be done by any Preacher; no, not the selling of pills, drops, or balsams.

X. DIRECTIONS FOR OBTAINING HIGHER DEGREES OF HOLINESS.

Q. 11. Why are not we ourselves more holy? Why do we not live in eternity? Why do we not walk with God all the day long? Why are we not wholly devoted to God, breathing the whole spirit of Missionaries?

A. Because we are idle. We forget our first Rule: "Be

¹ In consequence of the greatly enlarged extent of the Connexion, the business of the Conference embraces many subjects beyond those here specified. The present arrangements of the Conference, and the general order of business observed in it, are given in Part II. Chapters II. III. of the present work.

diligent; never be unemployed." Do we spend as many hours in a day in God's work, as we did formerly in man's work? Do not some of us spend too much time in talking, or in reading history, newspapers, or other books, which have no tendency either to make us more holy or more useful?

That this may no longer be the case,—as often as possible, rise at four o'clock. From four to five in the morning, and from six to seven in the evening, meditate, pray, and read, partly the Holy Scriptures, and partly the most close and practical parts of what Mr. Wesley has published. From six in the morning till twelve (allowing an hour for breakfast) read in order, with much prayer, the Christian Library, and all our other books, whether in prose or in verse, and especially all Mr. Wesley's Sermons.

If any one will say, "I read only the Bible"; then he ought to teach others to read only the Bible, and, by the same rule, to hear only the Bible. If you need no other book but the Bible, you are got above St. Paul. He wanted others too: "Bring the books," says he, "but especially the parchments." If any say, "I have no taste for reading"; then you must contract a taste for it by use, or return home again.

In the afternoon visit as many of the sick, and those who want your help, as you can; and you will have work enough for all your time. Then no Preacher will stay with us who is as salt that hath lost its savour; for to such this employment would be mere drudgery. And in order to it, you will have need of all the useful knowledge you can procure.

XI. DIRECTIONS FOR OBTAINING A CLOSER UNION AMONG - THE PREACHERS.

Q. 12. What can be done in order to a closer union of our Preachers with each other?

A. Let them be deeply convinced of the absolute necessity of it. Let them pray for a desire of union. Let them speak freely and lovingly to each other. When they meet, let them never part without prayer. Let them beware how they despise each other's gifts. Let them never speak slightly of each other in any kind. Let them defend each other's

characters in everything, as far as they can with a good conscience. And let them labour in honour to prefer the other before himself.

XII. ON PREACHING WHERE WE CAN FORM NO SOCIETY; AND
ON FIELD-PREACHING.

Q. 13. Is it advisable to continue preaching in those places where we find that we can form no Society?

A. By no means; we have made the trial in various places. But the seed has fallen by the highway side; there is scarce any fruit remaining.

Q. 14. Where shall we endeavour to preach the most?

A. Where there is the greatest number of quiet and willing hearers; and where the Lord is in a peculiar manner reviving His work.

Q. 15. Have we not used field-preaching too sparingly?

A. We have. Because our call is to save that which is lost. Now we cannot expect them to seek us. Therefore we should go and seek them; because we are peculiarly called to go into the highways and hedges, to compel them to come in; because that reason against it is not good, "The house will hold all that come." The house may hold all that come to the house, but not all that would come to the field.

The greatest hindrance to this you may expect from the rich, or cowardly, or lazy Methodists. But regard them not, neither Stewards, Leaders, nor people. Whenever the weather will permit, go out in the name of the Lord into the most public places, and call upon all to repent and believe the Gospel; every Sunday in particular; especially where there are old Societies, lest they should settle upon their lees. The Stewards will frequently oppose this lest they lose their usual collections. But this is not a sufficient reason against it. Shall we barter souls for money?

XIII. ON THE DECREASE OF THE WORK, AND THE PROPER
MEANS OF PROMOTING A REVIVAL.

Q. 16. How can we account for the decrease of the work of God in any Circuit?

A. It may be owing to the want of zeal and exactness in the Superintendent, occasioning the want of discipline throughout ; or to the want of life and diligence in the Preachers ; or to the people's losing the life of God, and sinking into the spirit of the world. It may be owing to the want of more field-preaching ; or of visiting more new places.

Q. 17. What can be done in order to revive the work of God where it is decayed ?

A. Let every Preacher read carefully over the Life and Journals of the late Mr. Wesley, the Life of Mr. Fletcher, the Life of David Brainerd ; and let us be followers of them as they were of Christ, in absolute self-denial, in total deadness to the world, and in fervent love to God and man. Let us only secure this point, and the world and the devil must fall under our feet.

Let all the Preachers be conscientiously exact in the whole Methodist Discipline ; and take care that no Circuit be at any time without Preachers.

Strongly and explicitly exhort all believers to go on to perfection. We all agree to defend this doctrine ; meaning thereby, salvation from all sin, by the love of God and man filling the heart. We say, "That this may be attained in this life." The substance then is settled. And as to the circumstance, "Is this change gradual or instantaneous?" it is both the one and the other. From the time we are justified, there ought to be a gradual sanctification, a growing in grace, a daily advance in the knowledge and love of God. And if sin cease before death, there must, in the nature of the thing, be an instantaneous change. There must be a last moment wherein it does exist, and a first moment wherein it does not. But should we, in preaching, insist both upon the one and the other? Certainly, we must insist on the gradual work, and that earnestly and constantly. And are there not reasons why we should insist on the instantaneous work also? If there be such a blessed change before death, should we not encourage all believers to expect it? and the rather, because constant experience shows, that the more earnestly they expect this, the more swiftly and steadily does the gradual work of God go on in their souls ; the more watchful they are against all sin, the more careful to grow in grace, the more zealous of good works,

and the more punctual in their attendance upon all the ordinances of God. Whereas, just the contrary effects are observed whenever this expectation ceases. They are saved by hope; by this hope of a total change with a gradually increasing salvation. Destroy this hope, and that salvation stands still or rather decreases daily. Therefore, whosoever would advance the gradual change in believers should strongly insist on the instantaneous.

XIV. AGAINST ANTINOMIANISM.

18. Q. What is most destructive of Methodism, or the doctrine of inward holiness?

A. Calvinism, that is, the doctrine of unconditional predestination. All the devices of Satan have done far less towards stopping this work of God than that single doctrine. It strikes at the root of salvation from sin, previous to glory; it puts the matter quite upon another footing. This doctrine seems to magnify Christ, although in reality it supposes Him to have died in vain. For the absolutely elect must have been saved without Him, and the non-elect cannot be saved by Him. It is highly pleasing to flesh and blood, unconditional perseverance in particular.

Let all our Preachers carefully read over Mr. Wesley's and Mr. Fletcher's tracts.

Let them frequently and explicitly preach the whole truth, though not in a controversial way. Let them take care to do it in love and gentleness.

Lay hold upon any that you find newly convinced of the truth, and warn them against predestination. Answer all their objections as occasion offers, both in public and in private. But do this with all possible sweetness both of look and accent. Frequently warn our people against hearing that doctrine. And pray much, that the Lord may prevent the evil.

We said in 1744, "We have leaned too much toward Calvinism." Wherein?

With regard to man's faithfulness. Our Lord Himself taught us to use the expression, and therefore we ought never to be ashamed of it. We ought steadily to assert, upon His authority, that if a man is not faithful in the unrighteous mammon, God will not give him the true riches.

With regard to working for life, which our Lord expressly commands us to do: "Labour," ἐργάζεσθε, that is, work, "for the meat that endureth to everlasting life." And, in fact, every believer, till he comes to glory, works for, as well as from life.

We have received it as a maxim, that a man is to do nothing in order to justification. Nothing can be more false. Whosoever desires to find favour with God should cease from evil, and learn to do well. So God Himself teaches by the Prophet Isaiah. Whosoever repents should do works meet for repentance. And if this is not in order to find favour, what does he do them for?

Once more review the whole affair. Who of us is now accepted of God? He that now believes in Christ with a loving, obedient heart. But who among those that never heard the Gospel? He that, according to the light he has, feareth God and worketh righteousness. Is this the same with, He that is sincere? Nearly, if not quite. Is not this salvation by works? Not by the merit of works, but by works as a condition. What, then, have we been disputing about for these thirty years? I am afraid about words, namely, in some of the foregoing instances.

As to merit itself, of which we have been so dreadfully afraid: We are rewarded according to our works, yea, because of our works. How does this differ from, "for the sake of our works"? And how differs this from *secundum merita operum*? which is no more than, "as our works deserve." Let him that can, split the hair.

The grand objection to one of the preceding propositions is drawn from matter of fact: God does in fact justify those who, by their own confession, neither feared God nor wrought righteousness. Is this an exception to the general rule? It is a doubt whether God makes any exception at all. But how are we sure that the person in question never did fear God and work righteousness? His own thinking so is no proof. For we know how all who are convinced of sin undervalue themselves in every respect.

Does not talking, without proper caution, of a justified or a sanctified state, tend to mislead men, almost naturally leading them to trust in what was done in one moment? Whereas we are every moment pleasing or displeasing to God, according to

our works, according to the whole of our present inward tempers, and outward behaviour.¹

XV. THE MOST USEFUL WAY OF PREACHING.

Q. 19. What is the best general method of preaching?

A. To invite, to convince, to offer Christ, to build up, and to do this in some measure in every sermon. The most effectual way of preaching Christ is to preach Him in all His offices, and to declare His Law as well as His Gospel, both to believers and unbelievers. Let us strongly insist upon inward and outward holiness, and, with this view, set forth Christ as evidently crucified before their eyes,—Christ in all the riches of His grace, justifying us by His blood, and sanctifying us by His Spirit. Always suit your subject to the state of your audience. Choose the plainest texts you can. Take care not to ramble, but keep to your text, and make out what you take in hand. Be sparing in spiritualising or allegorising. Let your whole deportment before the congregation be serious, weighty, and solemn. Take care of anything awkward or affected, either in your gesture, phrase, or pronunciation. Do not usually pray above eight or ten minutes, before or after the sermon. Be sure never to disappoint a congregation, unless in case of life or death; and begin and end exactly at the time. The evening preaching should never begin later than seven o'clock, unless in time of harvest. Young Preachers might often exhort without taking a text.

Everywhere avail yourself of the great festivals, by preaching on the occasion, and singing our hymns, which you should take care to have in readiness.²

¹ The sense in which these doctrinal Minutes are to be understood is clearly stated by Mr. Fletcher in his admirable *Checks to Antinomianism*, who has also proved them to be strictly Scriptural. See, also, Mr. Watson's Observations in his *Life of the Rev. John Wesley*, and Mr. Wesley's own explanatory Declaration given by him (Watson's Works, vol. v. pp. 235-239).

² The principal hymns on the great festivals of the Church here referred to are inserted in the "New Supplement" to the Hymn Book in general use among the Methodists. There is not therefore the same necessity for providing those hymns as separate publications; but their use, on the recurrence of the great festivals of the Christian Church, may be properly urged as most appropriate and conducive to edification.

XVI. HOW TO GUARD AGAINST FORMALITY IN PUBLIC WORSHIP,
ESPECIALLY IN SINGING.

Q. 20. How shall we guard against formality in public worship?

A. By carefully warning the people against it. By taking care that our own minds are duly affected by the truths we preach, never losing sight of ourselves. By choosing such hymns as are suitable to the congregation. By singing not too much at once, seldom more than five or six verses. By suiting the tune to the words. By sometimes seriously asking the people, "Now, do you know what you said last? Did you speak no more than you felt?"

Is not formality in singing creeping in, singing those complex tunes and anthems which it is scarcely possible to sing with devotion? The repeating the same words so often, and especially while another is repeating other words (the horrid abuse which runs through the modern Church music), as it shocks all common sense, so it necessarily brings in dead formality, and has no religion in it. Besides, it is a flat contradiction to our Lord's command, "Use not vain repetitions"; for what is a vain repetition if this is not? What end of devotion does it serve? Sing no anthems.

Do not suffer the people to sing too slow; this naturally tends to formality. In every large Society let them learn to sing; and let them always learn our own tunes first. Let the women constantly sing their own parts alone; let no man sing with them, unless he understands the notes, and sings the bass. Introduce no new tunes till they are perfect in the old ones. Let no organ be placed anywhere till it be proposed at the Conference. Recommend the Tune Book everywhere; and if you cannot sing yourself, choose a person or two in each place to pitch the tune for you. Exhort every one, whether man or woman, in the congregation to sing. If a Preacher be present, let no other person give out the words. When they wish to teach the congregation to sing any new tune, they should only sing the tenor.

XVII. ON VISITING AND INSTRUCTING THE PEOPLE FROM
HOUSE TO HOUSE.

Q. 21. How shall we farther assist those who are under our care?

A. By instructing them from house to house. The necessity of this will appear if we consider that personal religion, either towards God or man, is still very much wanted among us. How little living faith is there amongst us! how little communion with God! how little living in heaven, walking in eternity, deadness to every creature! how much love of the world, desire of pleasure, of ease, of getting money!

How little brotherly love! what continual judging one another! what gossiping, evil-speaking, tale-bearing! what want of moral honesty! who does as he would be done by in buying and selling, especially in selling horses?

Family religion is very much wanting among us. Our religion is not deep, universal, and uniform, but too superficial, partial, and uneven. Public preaching alone, though we could preach like angels, will not be sufficient to reform those evils; we must therefore visit from house to house.

But we shall find many hindrances to this, both in ourselves and in the people.

1. In ourselves there is much dulness and laziness, so that there will be much ado to get us to be faithful in the work. We have a base, man-pleasing temper, so that we let men perish, for fear of offending them; we let them go quietly to hell, lest they should be angry with us. Some of us have a foolish bashfulness. We know not how to begin, and blush to contradict the devil. But the greatest hindrance is weakness of faith. Our whole motion is weak, because the spring is weak. We are unskilful in the work. How few know how to deal with men, so as to get within them, and suit all our discourse to their several conditions and tempers, to choose the fittest subjects, and follow them with a holy mixture of seriousness and terror, of love and meekness.

2. And we shall meet with many difficulties from the people. Some of them will be unwilling to be taught, till we conquer their perverseness by the force of reason, and the power of love.

We shall find it difficult to fix things in their minds, without which all our labour will be lost. If we have not, therefore, great seriousness and fervency, what good can we expect? And after all, it is grace alone that must do the work. And when we have made some good impressions upon their hearts, if we do not look after them, they will die away.

We shall find that many are very ignorant, and know but little of the nature of repentance, of faith, and of holiness. Most of them have a sort of confidence that God will save them, while the world has their hearts, and evil tempers have dominion over them. This private instruction is implied in those solemn words of the Apostle: "I charge thee, before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at His appearing, preach the Word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine."

O brethren, if we could set this work on foot in all our Societies, and prosecute it zealously, what glory would redound to God! If the common ignorance were banished, and the people in every house and in every shop were busied in speaking of the Word and works of God, surely the Lord would dwell in our habitations, and make us His delight.

And this is absolutely necessary, as many of our people neither repent nor believe to this day. Look round, and see how many are still in danger of damnation; and then say, How can we walk, and talk, and be cheerful with such people, when we know their case? When we look such persons in the face, ought we not to break forth into tears, as the Prophet did when he looked upon Hazael, and then set upon them with the most vehement and importunate exhortations? O, for God's sake, and for the sake of poor souls, let us bestir ourselves, and spare no pains that may conduce to their salvation!

What cause have we to blush before the Lord this day, that we have so long neglected this good work; if we had but set upon it sooner, how many more might we have brought to Christ! And how much holier and happier might we have made our Societies before now! And why might we not have done it sooner? There were many hindrances, and so there always will be. But the greatest hindrance was in ourselves, in our littleness of faith and love.

It is objected: "This will take up too much time, so that we shall not be able to follow our studies." Gaining useful knowledge is a good thing; but still saving souls is better. By this very thing we shall gain the most excellent knowledge,—that of God and eternity. We shall likewise have time for gaining other knowledge, too, if we spend all our mornings therein. Only sleep not more than we need, and never be idle, or triflingly employed. But if we can do but one, then let our studies alone. Better throw away all the libraries in the world, than be guilty of the loss of one soul.

If some of the people will not submit to it, others will; and the success with them will repay us for all our labour. O let us follow the example of St. Paul! for our general business, "Serving the Lord with all humility of mind"; our special work, "Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock"; our doctrine, "Repentance towards God, and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ"; the place, "I have taught you publicly and from house to house"; the object and manner of teaching, "I ceased not to warn every one, night and day, with tears"; his innocence and self-denial herein, "I have coveted no man's silver or gold"; his patience, "Neither count I my life dear unto myself." And among all our motives, let these be ever before our eyes, "The Church of God, which He hath purchased with His own blood: grievous wolves will enter in; yea, of yourselves will men arise, speaking perverse things." Let us write this upon our hearts, and it will do us more good than twenty years' study.

We shall find it no easy matter to teach the ignorant the principles of religion. So true is the remark of Bishop Usher: "Great scholars may think this work beneath them: but they should consider, the laying the foundation skilfully, as it is of the greatest importance, so it is the masterpiece of the wisest builder." And let the wisest of us all try, whenever we please, we shall find, that to lay this ground-work rightly, to make the ignorant understand the grounds of religion, will put us to the trial of all our skill.

Perhaps, in doing this, it may be well, after a few loving words, spoken to all in the house, to take each person singly into another room, where we may deal closely with him, about his sin, his misery, and his duty; these must be set home, or

all our labour is lost. At least, let none be present but those who are familiar with each other.

The sum is, go into every house in course, and teach every one therein, young and old, if they belong to us, to be Christians, inwardly and outwardly. Make every particular plain to their understanding, fix it in their memory, write it in their heart. In order to this, there must be line upon line, precept upon precept. What patience, what love, what knowledge is requisite for this!

We may, as we have time, read, explain, and enforce the Instructions for Children; the fourth volume of Sermons; and Mr. Henry's method of Family Prayer.

Do we not loiter away many hours in a day? Let each try himself: no idleness can consist with growth in grace. Nay, without exactness in redeeming time, we cannot retain the grace we received in justification.

What shall we do for the rising generation? Unless we take care of this, the present revival will last only the age of a man. Who will labour herein? Let him that is zealous for God and the souls of men begin now.

We must hear what the children have learnt by heart. Choose some of the weightiest points, and try if they understand them; such as, "Do you believe you are a sinner? What does sin deserve? What remedy has God provided for guilty, helpless sinners?"

Often with the question suggest the answer; as, "What is repentance? Sorrow for sin, arising from a conviction that we are guilty, helpless sinners?" "What is faith? A divine conviction of things not seen?" When we perceive that they do not understand the stress of the question, lead them into it by other questions. For instance, we ask, "How do you think that your sins will be pardoned?" They answer, "By repenting and amending my life." We ask farther, "But will your amendment make satisfaction for your past sins?" They will answer, "I hope so, or I know not what will." One would think that these had no knowledge of Christ at all; and some of them have not. But others have, and give such answers, only because they do not understand the scope of the question. If we ask them farther, "Can you be saved without the death of Christ?" they immediately say, "No!" And if we ask,

"What has He suffered for you?" they will say, "He shed His blood for us." But many cannot express even what they have some conception of; no, not even when expressions are put into their mouths. With these we are to deal exceeding tenderly, lest they be discouraged.

If we perceive them to be troubled, that they cannot answer, we must take the burden off them; answering the question thoroughly and plainly, making a full explication of the whole business to them.

When we have tried their knowledge, we must proceed to instruct them, according to their several capacities. If a man understand the fundamentals, we must then speak of what we perceive he most needs, either explaining farther some doctrine, or some duty, or showing him the necessity of something which he neglects; if he still understands not, we must go over it again till he does.

Next, inquire into his state, whether convinced or unconvinced, converted or unconverted, telling him, if need be, what conversion is; and then renew and enforce the inquiry.

If unconverted, we must labour with all our power to bring his heart to a sense of his condition; setting this home with a more earnest voice than we spoke before. We must get to the heart, or we do nothing; concluding all with a strong exhortation, which should enforce the duty of the heart, in order to receive Christ; the avoiding former sins; and constantly using the means of grace; and be sure, if possible, to get their promise to forsake sin, to change their company, and to wait upon God in His house. Let this be done solemnly, reminding them of the presence of God, who hears their promises, and expects the performance.

Before we leave them, engage the head of each family to call all under his care together, every Sunday before they go to bed, and hear what they can repeat; and so continue till they have learned the Instructions for Children perfectly; and afterwards let him take care that they do not forget what they have learned.

If we do this earnestly, we shall soon find what a work we have undertaken, in engaging to be Travelling Preachers.

XVIII. ON INSTRUCTING THE CHILDREN.

Where there are ten children in a Society, we must meet them at least an hour every week; talk with them whenever we see any of them at home; pray in earnest for them; diligently instruct and vehemently exhort all parents at their own houses. Some will say, "I have no gift for this." Gift or no gift, you are to do this, or else you are not called to be a Methodist Preacher. Do it as you can, till you can do it as you would. Pray earnestly for the gift, and use every help God hath put into your way, in order to attain it. Preach expressly on the education of children when you make the Collection for Kingswood School.

Q. 22. We have been frequently reproached with the dress of our Preachers' children. How ought they to dress?

A. Exactly according to the Rules of the Bands; and it would be well if parents in general would observe this.

XIX. ON CONFORMITY TO THE WORLD, BRIBERY, AND SABBATH-BREAKING.

Q. 23. Have we not made too great advances towards conformity to the world?

A. We have. In order to prevent this, those school-masters and school-mistresses who receive dancing-masters into their schools, and those parents who employ dancing-masters for their children, shall be no longer Members of our Society.

Q. 24. Do not Sabbath-breaking, dram-drinking, evil-speaking, unprofitable conversation, lightness, expensiveness, or gaiety of apparel, and contracting debts without due care to discharge them, still prevail in several places? How may these evils be remedied?

A. Let us solemnly and frequently warn the people against these evils. Read in every Society the sermon on Evil-speaking. Let the Leaders closely examine, and exhort every person to put away the accursed thing. Let the Preachers warn every Society, that those who are guilty cannot remain with us. Extirpate smuggling, buying or selling uncustomed goods, out of every Society. Let none remain with us who will not

totally abstain from every kind and degree of it. Speak tenderly, but earnestly and frequently, of it in every Society near the coasts; and diligently disperse among them "The Word to a Smuggler." Extirpate bribery; the receiving anything, directly or indirectly, for voting in any election. Show no respect of persons herein, but expel all that touch the accursed thing. Largely show in public the wickedness of thus selling our country; and everywhere disperse "The Word to a Freeholder."

Q. 25. Several members of our Societies who make conscience of Sabbath-breaking have been much distressed, barbers in particular. What can be done to relieve them?

A. Let no member of our Society employ any barber on Sunday. Let all our people who possibly can, employ only those barbers who conscientiously abstain from Sabbath-breaking.

Let none of our people make any wake or feast, neither go to any, on the Lord's day, but bear a public testimony against them.

A Preacher ought not to wear powder in his hair, or artificial curls.

No person ought to continue a member of our Society who learns the military exercise, as a volunteer, on the Lord's day; nor any one who, after having been warned of the evil, will attend in order to see them exercise on that day.

XX. ON MARRYING WITH UNBELIEVERS.

Q. 26. Some of our members have married with unbelievers, yea, with unawakened persons: this has had fatal effects. They had either a cross for life, or turned back to perdition. What can be done to put a stop to this?

A. Let every Preacher enforce the Apostle's caution, "Be not unequally yoked with unbelievers." Let him openly declare, that whosoever does this will be expelled the Society. When any such are expelled, let a suitable exhortation be subjoined. And let all be exhorted to take no step in so weighty a matter, without advising with the most serious of their Christian friends.

Q. 27. Ought a woman to marry without the consent of her parents?

A. In general she ought not. Yet there may be an excep-

tion. For if a woman be under a necessity to marry, and if her parents absolutely refuse to let her marry any Christian, then she may, nay, she ought to marry without their consent. Yet even then a Methodist Preacher ought not to marry her.¹

XXI. ON BANKRUPTCIES; STRANGERS STAYING AT THE SOCIETY MEETINGS; LOVEFEASTS; FUNERAL SERMONS; AND TALKING IN OUR CHAPELS.

Q. 28. What shall we do to prevent scandal, when any of our members become bankrupt?

A. Let the Superintendent talk with him at large. And if he has not kept fair accounts, or has been concerned in the base practice of raising money by coining notes (commonly called the bill-trade), let him be expelled immediately.²

Q. 29. How often shall we permit strangers to be present at the meeting of the Society?

A. At every other meeting of the Society, let no stranger be admitted. At other times they may; but the same person not above three times. In order to this, see that all in every place show their Tickets before they come in. If the Stewards and Leaders are not exact, employ others that have more resolution. And take care that no person attend a Lovefeast without a note from the Preacher.

Let no Lovefeast be appointed but by the consent of the Superintendent; nor any funeral sermon be preached without his consent, and for those only who have died happy in the Lord.

Q. 30. How shall we prevent persons talking in our chapels, before and after service is over?

A. Let all the Preachers join as one man and seriously and solemnly warn the people against this growing evil.

XXII. ON STRANGERS BEING ENTERTAINED AT THE PREACHERS' HOUSES; AND ON CLEANLINESS.

Let none of our friends who travel on business expect to be entertained at the Preachers' houses; neither let the people

¹ For further Regulations on the marriage of Preachers, see *Minutes of Conference*, vol. v. pp. 519, 520.

² For Regulations now in force respecting *Commercial Failures*, see pp. 21, 22, 224.

crowd into the Preachers' houses; let no one think that he has a right to go there, unless he has some particular business.

The Preachers' houses ought to be kept clean and decent. A Preacher's wife ought to be a pattern of cleanliness in her person, clothes, and habitation. And she should also be a pattern of industry, always at work for herself, her husband, or children.

XXIII. IN WHAT CASES WE ALLOW SERVICE IN CHURCH-HOURS.

Q. 31. In what cases do we allow service in what are commonly called Church-hours?

A. When the Minister is a notoriously wicked man; when he preaches Arian, or any equally pernicious, doctrine; when there are not churches in the town sufficient to contain the people; and when there is no church within two or three miles.¹ And it is expected that every one who preaches in Church-hours will either read Mr. Wesley's Abridgment of the Common Prayer, or else the Lessons for the day.

XXIV. HOW TO PREVENT NERVOUS DISORDERS.

Q. 32. What directions shall be given to prevent the contracting nervous disorders?

A. Take as little meat, drink, and sleep, as nature will require. Drink no dram on any consideration. Eat very light, if any, supper. Never go out of the house to supper at any time. Be always at home before nine o'clock, if possible. And use full as much exercise daily as we did before we were Preachers.

XXV. THE ORDER OF DISTRICTS; AND WHAT BUSINESS IS TO BE DONE THERE.

Q. 33. What Regulations are necessary for the preservation of our whole Economy?

¹ This Rule is now obsolete.

4. Let the three kingdoms be divided into Districts in the following order¹:—

1. *London*, Colchester, Rochester, Canterbury, Rye, Weathersfield.

2. *Northampton*, Brackley, Bedford, Oxford, Higham-Ferrers, St. Ives (Hunts).

3. *Norwich*, Yarmouth, Diss, Thetford, Lynn, Walsingham.

4. *Bristol*, Taunton, Banwell, Bath, Stroud, Gloucester.

5. *Salisbury*, Portsmouth, Newbury, Poole, Bradford (Wilts), Shepton-Mallet.

6. *Isle of Jersey*, Isle of Guernsey, Alderney, and Sark.

7. *Plymouth-Dock*, Collumpton, Launceston.

8. *Redruth*, St. Austle, Penzance.

9. *Swansea*, Cardiff, Brecon, Haverfordwest.

10. *Birmingham*, Worcester, Stourport, Dudley, Shrewsbury.

11. *Chester*, Macclesfield, Burslem, Northwich, Leek.

12. *Manchester*, Stockport, Bolton, Liverpool, Rochdale, Oldham, Blackburn, Wigan.

13. *Halifax*, Colne, Keighley, Bradford, Huddersfield, Lancaster.

14. *Nottingham*, Newark, Leicester, Hinckley, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Burton, Derby, Castle-Donington.

15. *Leeds*, Wakefield, Birstal, Dewsbury, Rotherham, Otley, Sheffield, Pontefract, Doncaster.

16. *Grimsby*, Horncastle, Epworth, Spalding, Barrow, Gainsborough.

17. *Whitehaven*, Isle of Man.

18. *York*, Hull, Pocklington, Bridlington, Scarborough, Malton.

19. *Whitby*, Ripon, Stockton, Barnard-Castle, Middleham.

20. *Newcastle*, Sunderland, Hexham, Alnwick.

21. *Edinburgh*, Glasgow, Dumfries.

22. *Aberdeen*, Dundee, Brechin, Inverness.

¹ The number of Districts has since been increased, owing to the enlargement of the work. At present there are thirty-four in Great Britain, and ten in Ireland; besides many in connexion with our Missions.

IRELAND.

23. *Dublin*, Wicklow, Carlow, Longford.
24. *Cork*, Bandon, Limerick, Waterford.
25. *Athlone*, Birr, Castlebar, Sligo.
26. *Clones*, Cavan, Ballyconnell, Enniskillen, Brookborough.
27. *Londonderry*, Coleraine, Lisleen, Ballyshannon, Omagh,
etc.

The names of all the Preachers in each District shall be read over by the Secretary, and a Chairman shall be chosen out of them by ballot of the Conference. The Chairman, so chosen, shall have authority to call a Meeting of all the Preachers in Full Connexion in that District, on any application of the Preachers or people, which appears to him to require it. But he must never *individually* interfere with any other Circuit but his own.

Whenever the Chairman has received any complaint against a Preacher, he shall send an exact account of the complaint in writing to the person accused, with the name of the accuser or accusers, before he calls a Meeting of the District to examine into the charge.

If it appear on just grounds to any Superintendent, that the Chairman of the District has been guilty of any crime, or that he has neglected to call the District, when there were sufficient reasons for calling it, such Superintendent shall have authority, in that case, to call a Meeting of the District, and to fix the time and place of meeting. The District thus assembled shall have power, if they judge necessary, to try the Chairman; and, if found guilty, to suspend him from being a Travelling Preacher till the next Conference, or to remove him from the office of a Superintendent, or to depose him from the chair, and to elect another in his place. Minutes shall be taken of their proceedings, which shall be laid before the next Conference.¹

¹ The statement contained in this paragraph has been modified by more recent legislation. The Rule now in force for the trial of an accused Chairman is given in Part II. Chapter IX. pp. 160, 161, of this work. The reader is referred also to the three chapters on *District Organisation* for a more accurate and complete statement of the functions and procedures of District Synods, than that which is found in the early Minutes.

If a Preacher be accused of immorality, the Preacher accused and his accuser shall respectively choose two Preachers of their District; and the Chairman of the District shall, with the four Preachers, chosen as above, try the accused Preacher; and they shall have authority, if he be found guilty, to suspend him till the next Conference, if they judge it expedient. But provided they cannot settle the business to the satisfaction of the accused Preacher, then it shall be referred to the District Meeting.

If there be a difference between two Preachers in a District, the respective parties shall choose two Preachers; and the Chairman of the District, with the four Preachers so chosen, shall be final arbiters, to determine the matter in dispute. In both cases the Chairman shall have a casting voice, in case of an equality.¹

If there be any accusation against a Preacher, or any difficult affair to settle, not only the Circuit or Town Steward, but any Leader, or even member of the Society, shall be admitted as an evidence into a District Meeting, provided the matter has been first heard at the Quarterly Meeting.

The Chairman of each District, in conjunction with his brethren of that District, shall be responsible to the Conference for the execution of our laws, as far as his District is concerned.

The Chairman, in all cases which, in his judgment, cannot be settled in the ordinary District Meetings, shall have authority to summon three of the nearest Superintendents to be incorporated with the District Committee, who shall have equal authority to vote, and settle everything till the Conference.

The Conference recommends it to the Superintendents of the Circuits to invite, on all important occasions, the Chairman of their respective District to be present at their Quarterly Meetings.

In order to render our Districts more effective, the President of the Conference shall have power, when applied to by the Superintendent, to supply any Circuit with Preachers, if any should die or desist from travelling; and to sanction any change of Preachers which it may be necessary to make in the

¹ See *Constitution of Minor District Synod*, p. 147.

intervals of Conference ; and to assist at any District Meeting, if applied to for that purpose, by the Chairman of the District, or by a majority of the Superintendents in such District. And he shall have a right (if written to by any who are concerned) to visit any Circuit, and to inquire into their affairs with respect to Methodism, and in union with the District Committee, redress any grievance.

All deficiencies in the quarterage of Preachers, their wives, and their children, with all demands concerning rents, furniture, etc., shall be taken an account of, as far as possible, at the Quarterly Meeting. The account shall be sent (signed by the Circuit Steward) to the District Meeting, and from thence to the Conference.¹

As the Leaders' Meeting is the proper Meeting for the Society, and the Quarterly Meeting for the Circuit, we think that other formal Meetings in general would be contrary to the Methodist Economy, and very prejudicial in their consequences. But, in order to be as tender as possible, consistently with what we believe to be essential to the welfare of our Societies, we allow that other formal Meetings may be held, if they first receive the approbation of the Superintendent, and the Leaders' or Quarterly Meetings ; provided also that the Superintendent, if he please, be present at every such Meeting.

If the Conference shall see it necessary to make any new Rule for the Societies at large, and such Rule should be objected to at the first Quarterly Meeting in any given Circuit : and if the major part of that Meeting, in conjunction with the Preachers,² be of opinion that the enforcing that Rule in such a Circuit will be injurious to the prosperity of that Circuit ; it shall not be enforced in opposition to the judgment of the majority of such Quarterly Meeting before the second Conference. But if the Rule be confirmed by the second Conference, it shall be binding to the whole Connexion. Nevertheless, the Quarterly Meetings rejecting a new Rule

¹ The present arrangements respecting Circuit Deficiencies will be found in the Chapter on the Home Mission and Contingent Fund, Part III. Chapter II.

² The words "in conjunction with the Preachers" were formally *withdrawn* by the Conference of 1852 (vol. xii. p. 117).

shall not, by publications, public meetings, or otherwise, make that Rule a cause of contention, but shall strive, by every means, to preserve the peace of the Connexion.

All matters relating to the building of preaching-houses and dwelling-houses shall be determined in the District Meetings. All matters relating to the payment of the debts of houses, collections for houses, and everything that appertains to preaching-houses and dwelling-houses, shall be considered and settled in the District Meetings.¹

And as the Districts always meet a little before the Conference, they shall then choose a Representative to attend the Committee for stationing the Preachers; and shall also determine what Preachers in that District shall attend the Conference.

But nothing in any District Meeting shall be done contrary to any Rule of Conference.

XXVI. THE PLAN OF GENERAL PACIFICATION.

I. Concerning the Lord's Supper, Baptism, etc.

1. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper shall not be administered in any Chapel, except a majority of the Trustees of that Chapel on the one hand, and the majority of the Stewards and Leaders belonging to that Chapel (as the best qualified to give the sense of the people) on the other hand, allow of it. Nevertheless, in all cases, the consent of the Conference shall be first obtained, before the Lord's Supper be administered.

2. Wherever there is a Society but no Chapel, if the majority of the Stewards and Leaders of that Society testify that it is the wish of the people that the Lord's Supper should be administered to them, their desire shall be granted, provided that the consent of the Conference be first obtained.

3. Provided, nevertheless, that in Mount Pleasant Chapel, at Liverpool, and in all other Chapels where the Lord's Supper has been already peaceably administered, the administration of it shall be continued in future.

4. The administration of Baptism, the Burial of the Dead,

¹ The Rules affecting Chapels and other Trust Property are given in Part III. Chapter VI. of this work.

and service in Church-hours, shall be determined according to the Regulations above mentioned.

5. Whenever the Lord's Supper shall be administered according to the above-mentioned Regulations, it shall always be continued, except the Conference order the contrary.

6. The Lord's Supper shall be administered by those only who are authorised by the Conference; and at such times, and in such manner only, as the Conference shall appoint.

7. The administration of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, according to the above Regulations, is intended only for the members of our own Society.

8. We agree that the Lord's Supper be administered among us on Sunday evenings only; except where the majority of the Stewards and Leaders desire it in Church-hours; or where it has already been administered in these hours. Nevertheless, it shall never be administered on those Sundays on which it is administered in the Parish Church.

9. The Lord's Supper shall always be administered in England according to the form of the Established Church; but the person who administers shall have liberty to give out hymns, to use exhortation, and extemporary prayer.

10. Wherever Divine Service is performed in England on the Lord's day in Church-hours, the officiating Preacher shall read either the service of the Church, our venerable Father's Abridgment, or, at least, the Lessons appointed by the calendar. But we recommend either the full service or the Abridgment.

II. Concerning discipline.

1. The appointment of the Preachers shall remain solely with the Conference; and no Trustee, or number of Trustees, shall expel or exclude from their Chapel or Chapels any Preacher so appointed.

2. Nevertheless, if the majority of the Trustees, or the majority of the Stewards and Leaders, of any Society believe that any Preacher appointed for their Circuit is immoral, erroneous in doctrine, deficient in abilities, or that he has broken any of the Rules above mentioned, they shall have authority to summon the Preachers of the District, and all the Trustees, Stewards, and Leaders of that Circuit, to meet in their Chapel on a day and hour appointed (sufficient time

being given). The Chairman of the District shall be President of the assembly; and every Preacher, Trustee, Steward, and Leader shall have a single vote, the Chairman possessing the casting voice. And if the majority of the Meeting judge that the accused Preacher is immoral, erroneous in doctrine, deficient in abilities, or has broken any of the Rules above mentioned, he shall be considered as removed from that Circuit, and the District Committee shall, as soon as possible, appoint another Preacher for that Circuit, instead of the Preacher so removed, and shall determine among themselves how the removed Preacher shall be disposed of till the Conference; and shall have authority to suspend the said Preacher from all public duties till the Conference, if they think proper. The District Committee shall also supply, as well as possible, the place of the removed Preacher, till another Preacher be appointed. And the Preacher thus appointed, and all other Preachers, shall be subject to the above mode of trial. And if the District Committee do not appoint a Preacher for that Circuit, instead of the removed Preacher, within a month after the aforesaid removal, or do not fill up the place of the removed Preacher till another Preacher be appointed, the majority of the said Trustees, Stewards, and Leaders, being again regularly summoned, shall appoint a Preacher for the said Circuit, provided he be a member of the Methodist Connexion, till the next Conference.

3. If any Preacher refuse to submit to the above mode of trial, in any of the cases mentioned above, he shall be considered as suspended till the next Conference. And if any Trustees expel from any Chapel a Preacher by their own separate authority, the Preachers appointed for that Circuit shall not preach in that Chapel till the next Conference, or till a trial takes place according to the mode mentioned above.

4. If any Trustees expel or exclude a Preacher by their own separate authority, from any Chapel in any Circuit, the Chairman of the District shall summon the members of the District Committee, the Trustees of that Circuit who have not offended, and the Stewards and Leaders of the Circuit; and the members of such assembly shall examine into the evidence on both sides; and if the majority of them deter-

mine that the state of the Society in which the exclusion took place requires that a new Chapel should be built before the meeting of the next Conference, every proper step shall be immediately taken for erecting such Chapel. And no step shall, on any account, be taken to erect a Chapel for such purpose before the next Conference, till such a Meeting be summoned, and such determination be made.

5. No Preacher shall be suspended, or removed from his Circuit, by any District Committee, except he have the privilege of the trial before mentioned.¹

6. The hundred Preachers mentioned in the enrolled Deed, and their successors, are the only legal persons who constitute the Conference. And we think the junior brethren have no reason to object to this proposition, as they are regularly elected according to seniority.

7. Inasmuch as, in drawing up the preceding Regulations, we have laboured to restore and preserve the peace and unity of the Society, and, in order thereto, have endeavoured to keep the Preachers out of all disputes on the subjects therein specified—be it understood that any Preacher who shall disturb the peace of the Society by speaking for or against the introduction of the Lord's Supper in our Societies, or concerning the Old or the New Plan, so called, shall be subject to the trial and penalties before mentioned.

¹ In explanation of the last clause, it should be noted that, in 1835, in his Judgment in Dr. Warren's Case, Lord Chancellor Lyndhurst said :—

"No District Committee has the power of giving the Preacher the benefit of the trial before mentioned. There is no authority for that purpose: they have no power to convene this mixed tribunal; there are no regulations authorising them to do so; and if it was meant that the District Committee should have had such a power, there is no doubt, I apprehend, it would have been distinctly provided for. . . . It does appear to me, therefore, that the case is very strong and very clear with respect to the power of the District Committee; and that the District Committee still, notwithstanding the Act of Pacification, have a right, have authority, to suspend or to remove a Preacher in all cases, except in those particular cases mentioned in the Act of Pacification, where the Trustees and other parties therein mentioned choose to interfere. I think in all other cases they have authority to suspend or to remove."—See extract from Lord Lyndhurst's *Judgment, Minutes*, 1850, vol. xi. pp. 479, 480.

8. And in order that the utmost impartiality be manifested in these Regulations for the peace of the whole Body, we also resolve, That if any Local Preacher, Trustee, Steward, or Leader shall disturb the peace of the Society, by speaking for or against the introduction of the Lord's Supper, or concerning the Old or the New Plan (so called), the Superintendent of the Circuit, or the majority of the Trustees, Stewards, and Leaders of the Society so disturbed, shall have authority to summon a meeting of the Travelling Preachers of the Circuit, and the Trustees, Stewards, and Leaders of that Society. Evidence shall be examined on both sides; and if the charge be proved, the Superintendent Preacher shall expel from the Society the person so offending.

ADDENDA.

1. The Conference by no means wishes to divide any Society, by the introduction of the Lord's Supper; and therefore, except that a majority of the Stewards and Leaders, who desire the Lord's Supper among themselves, testify in writing to the Conference, that they are persuaded that no separation will be made thereby, they will not allow it.

2. The sacrament shall not be administered to a Society in any private house, within two miles of the Methodist Chapel in which it is regularly administered.

3. We all agree that the pulpit shall not be a vehicle of abuse.

4. It has been our general custom never to appoint or remove a Steward or Leader without first consulting the Stewards and Leaders of that Society; and we are resolved to walk by the same rule.

5. To prevent, as much as possible, the progress of strife and debate, and consequent divisions in our Connexion, no pamphlet or printed letter shall be circulated among us without the author's name, and the postage or carriage paid.

6. Nothing contained in these Rules shall be construed to violate the rights of the Trustees, as expressed in their respective deeds.

XXVII. THE AGREEMENT WITH THE TRUSTEES OF BRISTOL,
IN 1794.

To the Members of the Methodist Societies.

BRISTOL, August 8th, 1794.

DEAR BRETHREN,

We have again taken into our mature consideration the state of our Societies in this kingdom, respecting the administration of the Sacrament, and some other particulars which have engaged the attention of many of our people; and for the sake of peace and love have come to the following Resolutions:—

I. Preaching in Church-hours shall not be permitted, except for special reasons, and where it will not cause a division, according to the Plan of Pacification.

II. As the Lord's Supper has not been administered, except where the Society has been unanimous for it, and would not have been contented without it; it is now agreed, that it shall not be administered in future where the union and concord of the Society can be preserved without it, according to the Plan of Pacification.

III. The Preachers will not perform the office of Baptism except for the desirable ends of love and concord; though Baptism, and the Burial of the Dead, were performed by many of the Preachers long before the death of Mr. Wesley, and with his consent.

IV. It is agreed that the management of the temporal and spiritual concerns of the Society shall be separated, as far as the purposes of peace and harmony can be answered thereby, or as they have ever been separated in times of the greatest peace and harmony, viz., the temporal concerns shall be managed by the Stewards chosen for that purpose, who shall keep books, wherein all moneys collected, received, or disbursed, on account of their respective Societies, shall be entered. 2. The spiritual concerns shall be managed by the Preachers; who have ever appointed Leaders, chosen Stewards, and admitted Members into, and expelled them from, the Society, consulting their brethren the Leaders and Stewards,

according to the Rules before mentioned. The Preachers also, as hitherto, are to appoint Lovefeasts and Watch-nights, and to vary the time and places of Preaching, Class Meeting, etc.

V. That the Trustees may have the fullest assurance that the Conference love them, and have not the shadow of a desire to oppress them, any more than to reject any proposals which they conceive calculated to restore and preserve peace and harmony, the following articles are added :—

VI. The Trustees, in conjunction with the Superintendent, who shall have one vote only, shall choose their own Steward ; who shall receive and disburse all seat-rents, and such collections as shall be made, for the purpose of paying interest of money due upon the premises, or for reducing the principal of all such moneys, so received and disbursed. The aforesaid Stewards shall keep proper accounts in books provided for that purpose ; which books shall be open for the inspection of the Superintendent, and audited in his presence once every year ; or oftener if convenient. Provided always, that when the necessities of the work of God require it, the Trustees shall allow, quarterly, what may appear requisite for carrying on the work, so that it be not cramped : Provided that, if the seat-rents and collections fall short of what will be sufficient to discharge the rents, interest of money, and other necessary expenses of the Chapels, the deficiency shall be made good out of some other revenue of the Society ; and that books shall be provided, wherein shall be inserted all the accounts, both of the Trustees and the Stewards of the respective Societies, which shall be open for the inspection of the Trustees and others, and that the said accounts shall be annually audited in the presence of the Trustees : Provided also, that nothing in these Resolutions shall be construed to extend to alter any of the powers contained in the Trust-deeds.

VII. No Trustee (however accused, or defective in conforming to the established Rules of the Society) shall be removed from the Society, unless his crime, or breach of the Rules of the Society, be proved in the presence of the Trustees and Leaders.

Signed, in behalf of the Conference,

THOMAS HANBY, *President.*

THOMAS COKE, *Secretary.*

XXVIII. MR. WESLEY'S LETTER TO THE CONFERENCE IN 1791; AND
THEIR DETERMINATION IN CONSEQUENCE OF IT.

To the Conference.

CHESTER, *April 7th*, 1785.

MY DEAR BRETHREN,

Some of our Travelling Preachers have expressed a fear that, after my decease, you would exclude them either from preaching in connexion with you, or from some other privileges which they now enjoy. I know no other way to prevent any such inconvenience, than to leave these my last words with you.

I beseech you by the mercies of God, that you never avail yourselves of the Deed of Declaration, to assume any superiority over your brethren; but let all things go on among those Itinerants who choose to remain together, exactly in the same manner as when I was with you, so far as circumstances will admit.

In particular, I beseech you, if ever you loved me, and if you now love God and your brethren, to have no respect of persons in stationing the Preachers, in choosing children for Kingswood School, in disposing of the Yearly Collection and the Preachers' Fund, or any other public money. But do all things with a single eye, as I have done from the beginning. Go on thus, doing all things without prejudice or partiality, and God will be with you even to the end.

JOHN WESLEY.

N.B.—The Conference have unanimously resolved, That all the Preachers who are in Full Connexion with them shall enjoy every privilege that the members of the Conference enjoy, agreeably to the above-written letter of our venerable deceased Father in the Gospel, except in voting for the President and Secretary.

XXIX. CERTAIN RULES AGREED TO BY THE CONFERENCE AT
DIFFERENT TIMES.

1. No ordination shall take place in our Connexion, without the consent of the Conference; nor shall gowns or bands be used among us; or the title of *reverend*¹ be used at all. And

¹ This Rule has since been rescinded.

if any brother shall break the above-mentioned Rule, he thereby excludes himself from the Connexion.

2. No Preacher shall receive anything from the Circuit on account of his children who receive what is allowed from Kingswood School, nor after they have arrived at the age of seventeen years.¹

3. None of us shall, either in writing or conversation, speak lightly or irreverently of the Government under which we live. The oracles of God command us to be subject to the higher powers; and "honour the king" is there connected with the "fear of God."

4. No person among us shall call another heretic, bigot, or by any other disrespectful name, on any account, for a difference in sentiment.

5. No Preacher shall leave his Circuit, on any consideration, between the Midsummer and the Michaelmas quarter-days.²

6. A General Fast shall be held in all our Societies, the first Friday after New-year's-day, after Lady-day, after Midsummer-day, and after Michaelmas-day.

7. Every Preacher shall be considered as a Supernumerary for four years after he has desisted from travelling, and shall afterwards be deemed Superannuated.

8. Every Superintendent shall be at liberty to attend the Conference or not;³ but in case of absence, he shall send all his papers that are necessary, by the Representative of his District.

9. No division shall be made of any Circuit, where it does not appear to the Quarterly Meeting, the District Meeting, the Committee of Representatives, and the Conference, that there is such an enlargement of the work as requires it.

10. Every Preacher, before he is admitted into Full Con-

¹ By a subsequent Regulation, every Preacher is authorised, with certain exceptions, to receive the Allowance for his Children till they are twenty years of age. (See *Minutes*, 1814, vol. iv. p. 37.) For the time being Allowances cease at the age of nineteen (1893, p. 251).

² This Rule must be regarded as obsolete.

³ This Rule has since been modified. It belongs to the District Synod, at its Annual Meeting, to decide what Ministers shall attend the ensuing Conference. (See *Minutes*, vol. iii. p. 90; vol. iv. p. 455.) Members of the Legal Conference have the right to be present.

nexion, shall write an account of his life, and give it to Mr. Story.¹

11. All letters not directed to, or belonging to, the President, or the Committee of Representatives, are to be paid for by the Circuits respectively from which the Preachers come. And all the horses are to be paid for in the same way.

12. No Preacher who has been suspended or expelled shall, on any account, be employed as a Local Preacher, without the authority of the Conference.

13. No Circuit shall have more Preachers than it can support, unless in case of some extraordinary burden, in respect to wives and children; the Circuits in Scotland, Ireland, and Wales being excepted.

14. We strongly recommend the religious observance of the Lord's day; and desire our Superintendents to exclude from the Society all who buy or sell on that sacred day, except in case of medicine for the sick, or for supplying necessaries for funerals.

15. Any Preacher brought out in the course of the year, if he have travelled nine months before the next Conference, shall be considered as if he had travelled the whole year.²

16. The Lord's Supper shall be administered by the Superintendent only, or such of his Helpers as are in Full Connexion, as he shall appoint; provided that no Preacher be required to give it against his own inclination; and should it be granted to any place where the Preachers on the Circuit are all unwilling to give it, the Superintendent shall in that case invite a neighbouring Preacher, who is properly qualified, to administer it.

17. As several inconveniences have arisen respecting the change of Stewards; to remedy this, let it be observed, that the office of a Steward ceases at the end of the year: and every Superintendent is required at the end of the year, to change one Steward at least; so that no Steward may be in office above two years together, except in some extraordinary cases.

¹ This and the following Regulation are now obsolete. All letters, of course, are to be prepaid.

² By a subsequent Regulation it is determined that if a Preacher who is on the List of Reserve be appointed to a Circuit before Christmas, he shall be considered at the ensuing Conference as having travelled one year.

18. No Preacher shall use tobacco for smoking, chewing, or snuff, unless it be prescribed by a physician. And our people are desired not to provide pipes or tobacco for any of our Preachers.

19. It is desired that the money collected for the Yearly Collection, Kingswood School, and the Preachers' Fund, be entered in the general Steward's books, in the respective Circuits.¹

20. It is desired that the Representatives for stationing the Preachers may always meet on the Wednesday before the Conference.²

21. That we may be favoured with the direction and blessing of God on our important work at the Conference, it is agreed that, on the morning of the first day of the Conference, the President and Secretary shall be chosen, and the rest of the day be dedicated to fasting and prayer. And it is desired that our Societies may join us in the solemn duties of the day.

22. Whoever shall leave the Conference before the business is finished, and the Journal signed, must not complain on account of what may be done after their departure.

23. As the Preachers are eminently one Body, nothing should be done by any individual which would be prejudicial to the whole, or to any part thereof. Therefore, no Preacher shall publish anything but what is given to the Conference, and printed at our own press;³ the Book Committee to determine what is proper to be printed; that, as a reward for his labour, whatever shall be approved of by the said Committee, and printed, the author shall have an hundred out of every thousand of the books, whether large or small; and, if published in the Magazine, he shall have a reasonable allowance, the Conference being judges. But should a manuscript be rejected by the Book Committee, a Preacher may print it; provided he do not sell it at our Chapels, nor advertise it from our pulpits. The

¹ The Subscriptions and Collections for all our Connexional Funds are now entered in a *Circuit Book*, kept by the Superintendent of each Circuit.

² The time of the meeting of the Stationing Committee is always fixed by the preceding Conference. According to the present arrangement, that Committee meets in London preparatory to the assembling of the Conference.

³ This Rule has been rescinded.

design of this Rule is to prevent any Preacher in our Connexion from selling at the doors of our Chapels, or offering to sell, any books among our people, but those which belong to the Conference, and come from our Book-Room.

N.B.—If any Preacher be attacked by any of our enemies, and his character misrepresented, his printing a reply in his own defence shall not be deemed a breach of the above Rule.

24. The Districts shall determine when and where any Chapel shall be built. But we advise that no one shall be built till absolutely necessary, and till two-thirds of the whole expense be subscribed.¹

25. Several of the Preachers have found their own horses from the beginning. But we now recommend it to every Circuit to find horses for the use of the Preachers. But, in those Circuits which wish to be upon the same Plan as formerly, it is desired, that no Preacher may collect money for buying horses; but that whatever may be judged needful of this kind may be done by the Steward of the Circuit.²

26. All apothecaries' bills shall be discharged in the Circuits. And if the Stewards cannot pay the quarterage of the Preachers, their wives, and children, they must have fewer Preachers the next year.

27. Let no District Meeting, no Preacher, or number of Preachers, or people whatsoever, on any consideration, involve the Conference in any lawsuit; nor have any demand on the Conference for the expenses, or any part of the expenses, of any lawsuit; more especially concerning Chapels or Preaching-houses, without the consent of the Conference previously obtained.

28. We have been disappointed by married Preachers coming out to travel, in expectation of being themselves able to maintain their wives, independently of the Conference, who very soon became entirely dependent. How shall this be prevented? Let no Preacher be received on this Plan, unless he can bring

¹ The Regulations respecting the building of Chapels are given in Part III. Chapter VI. of this work.

² The present circumstances of the Connexion render this Rule, generally speaking, unnecessary. But in extensive Circuits the provision of horses for the Ministers is still highly important.

in writing such an account of his income, signed by the Superintendent, as shall satisfy the Conference. And if any person shall promise to maintain a Preacher's wife or children, he shall give a bond to the Conference for the sum he intends to allow.

29. Let every Preacher be merciful to his beast; not only ride moderately, but see that his horse is taken proper care of.

30. Let every Superintendent take care to provide every Preacher's wife who may be stationed along with him, a lodging, coals, and candles, or see that she is allowed fifteen pounds a year.¹

31. Let not all the Preachers in any Circuit come to the Conference. And let those who do come set out as late and return as soon as possible.

32. Prayer Meetings have been found exceedingly useful; therefore let us appoint them wherever we can make it convenient.

XXX. THE RULES OF THE PREACHERS' FUND.²

XXXI. AN ACCOUNT OF KINGSWOOD SCHOOL.

Q. 36. What can be done for the support of Kingswood School?

A. Let a public Collection be made in all the Chapels throughout the three kingdoms the Sunday before or after Midsummer,³ and let the following account be read:—

The wisdom and love of God have now thrust out a large number of labourers into His harvest; men who desire nothing on earth but to promote the glory of God, by saving their own souls, and those that hear them. And those to whom they minister spiritual things are willing to minister to them of

¹ This Rule has been superseded by improved arrangements for the support of the Ministry.

² These Rules are omitted as having been entirely superseded by the "Itinerant Methodist Preachers' Annuitant Society," and by the formation of the "Auxiliary Fund."

³ This collection is now appointed to be made in the month of November.

their carnal things; so that they have food to eat, raiment to put on, and a place where to lay their head, and are content therewith.

A competent provision is likewise made for the wives of married Preachers. These also lack nothing, having a quarterly allowance over and above for their little children; so that neither they nor their husbands need to be careful about many things, but may wait upon the Lord without distraction.

Yet one considerable difficulty lies on those who have boys, when they grow too big to be under their mother's direction. Having no father to govern and instruct them, they are exposed to a thousand temptations. To remedy this, we have a School on purpose for them, wherein they have all the instruction they are capable of, together with all things necessary for the body.

In whatever view we look upon this, it is one of the noblest charities that can be conceived. How reasonable is the institution! Is it fit that the children of those who give up themselves wholly to the work of the Lord, and labour to save souls from death, should want what is needful either for the soul or body? Ought not we to supply what the parent cannot, because of his labours in the Gospel? How excellent are the effects of this institution! The parent, eased of his weight, can the more cheerfully go on in his labour. And perhaps some of those children may hereafter fill up the place of those that shall rest from their labours.

It is well known that the children want nothing; that they scarce know what sickness means; that they are well instructed in whatever they are capable of learning; that they are carefully and tenderly governed; and that constant care is taken that the behaviour of all belonging to the house is such as becometh the Gospel of Christ.

But the expense of such an undertaking is very large, so that necessity obliges us, once a year, to ask the assistance of all those, in every place, who wish well to the work of God, who long to see sinners converted to God, and the kingdom of Christ set up in all the earth.

All of you who are thus minded have an opportunity now of showing your love to the Gospel. Now promote, as far as in you lies, one of the noblest charities in the world. Now forward, as you are able, one of the most excellent designs that

was ever set on foot in this kingdom. Do what you can to comfort the parents who give up their all for you, and to give their children cause to bless you. You will be no poorer for what you do on such an occasion. God is a good paymaster. And you know, that in doing this you lend unto the Lord: in due time He will pay you again.

It is now agreed that the boys shall be received into the School at the age of eight years, and that they shall continue till they are fourteen; that if any Preacher can give a sufficient reason why his boy should not go to the School, he shall be allowed twelve pounds a year from the Kingswood Collection; that the daughters of Travelling Preachers, from the time that they are nine years of age, shall receive from the said Collection eight guineas a year, for four years.¹

XXXII. AN ACCOUNT OF THE YEARLY COLLECTION.

Q. 37. How may we raise a General Fund for carrying on the work of God?

A. By a yearly Subscription, to be proposed by every Superintendent, when he visits the Classes at Lady-day, to be received either then or at the visitation following.

To this end he may read and enlarge upon the following hints in every Society:—

How shall we send a sufficient number of labourers into those parts where they are most of all wanted? suppose the north-west of Ireland, the north of Scotland, Wales, and many parts of England? Many are willing to hear, but are neither able nor willing to bear the expense. Nor can it as yet be expected of them: stay till the Word of God hath touched their hearts, and then they will endeavour to provide for them who preach it. Does it not lie upon us, in the meantime, to

¹ Several particulars in this last paragraph must be corrected by a reference to Part III. Chapter VIII. of this work. Boys are not admitted into the Kingswood School under ten years of age. The Education Allowance, both for boys and girls who remain at home, commences at nine years of age instead of eight; and that allowance, in the case of *girls* as well as *boys*, is twelve pounds per annum, and is continued for six years.

supply their lack of service? to raise a General Fund, out of which, from time to time, the expense may be defrayed? By this means, those who willingly offer themselves may travel through every part, and stay wherever there is a call, without being burdensome to any. Thus may the Gospel, in the life and power thereof, be spread from sea to sea. Which of you will not rejoice to throw in your mite to promote this glorious work?

Besides this, in carrying on so large a work through the three kingdoms, there are calls for money in various ways, and we must frequently be at considerable expense, or the work must be at a full stop. Many, too, are the occasional distresses of our Preachers, or their families, which require an immediate supply; otherwise their hands would hang down, if they were not constrained to leave the work.

Let every member of Society, once a year, set his shoulder to the work; contributing more or less, as God hath prospered him, at the Lady-day visitation of the Classes. Let every one herein do as he is disposed in his own mind, and according to the ability which God giveth, and there will be no lack.

"Men and brethren, help! Was there ever a call like this since you first heard the Gospel sound? Help to relieve your companions in the kingdom of Jesus, who are pressed above measure. 'Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.' Help to send forth able, willing labourers into our Lord's harvest; so shall you be assistant in saving souls from death, and hiding a multitude of sins. Help to spread the Gospel of your salvation into the remotest corners of the kingdom, till the knowledge of our Lord shall cover the land as the waters cover the sea; so shall it appear to ourselves, and all men, that we are indeed one body, united by one Spirit: so shall the baptized Heathens be yet again constrained to cry out, 'See how these Christians love one another!'"

The money thus subscribed shall be brought to the Conference by the Assistant Preacher.¹

¹ The Yearly Collection is now paid at the May District Synod to the Financial Secretary of the District; and is to be remitted by him, without delay, to the Secretary of the Home Mission and Contingent Fund.

XXXIII. HOW TO PRESERVE THE CHAPELS.¹

XXXIV. CERTAIN REGULATIONS MADE AT LEEDS, IN 1797.

To the Methodist Societies.

LEEDS, August 7th, 1797.

DEAR BRETHREN,

We think it our duty to inform you, by the earliest opportunity, of the measures we have taken, in order to satisfy those of our brethren who have been made more or less uneasy by sundry publications circulated through the Societies; and we trust that, on a serious consideration of the Regulations we have agreed to at this Conference, you will see that the sacrifices in respect to authority, which we have made on the part of the whole body of Travelling Preachers, evidence our willingness to meet our brethren in everything which is consistent with the existence of the Methodist Discipline, and our readiness to be their servants for Jesus' sake.

I. In respect to finances, or money matters :

1. We have determined to publish annually a very minute account of the disbursements or application of the Yearly Collection; and,

2. A full account of the affairs of Kingswood School.

3. That all bills for the support of Travelling Preachers and their families, in respect to deficiencies, house-rent, fire, candles, sickness, travelling expenses, and all other matters of a temporal kind for their support, for which the Circuits cannot provide, shall first meet with the approbation of the Quarterly Meeting, and be signed by the general Steward of the Circuit, before they can be brought to the District Committee.

II. In respect to all other temporal matters :

1. It has been determined that no Circuits shall be divided till such division has been approved of by their respective Quarterly Meetings, and signed by the general Stewards.

¹ This section is omitted, the form of Trust-Deed given in it having been superseded by the "Chapel Model Deed," adopted by the Conference in 1832. See Appendix V.

2. That no other temporal matter shall be transacted by the District Committees, till the approbation of the respective Quarterly Meetings be first given, signed by the Circuit Stewards.

III. In respect to the receiving and excluding private Members of Society :

1. The Leaders' Meeting shall have a right to declare any person on trial improper to be received into the Society ; and after such declaration the Superintendent shall not admit such person into the Society.

2. No person shall be expelled from the Society for immorality, till such immorality be proved at a Leaders' Meeting.

IV. In respect to the appointment and removal of Leaders, Stewards, and Local Preachers, and concerning Meetings :

1. No person shall be appointed a Leader or Steward, or be removed from his office, but in conjunction with the Leaders' Meeting ; the nomination to be in the Superintendent, and the approbation or disapprobation in the Leaders' Meeting.

2. The former Rule concerning Local Preachers is confirmed, namely, "That no person shall receive a Plan as a Local Preacher without the approbation of a Local Preachers' Meeting."

3. In compliance with a request made by the Committee of persons from various parts, namely, "That the Conference be requested to reconsider and revise those rules which relate to the calling of Meetings, and appointing Local Preachers, made last year," we say, "No Local Preacher shall be permitted to preach in any other Circuit than his own, without producing a recommendation from the Superintendent of the Circuit in which he lives ; nor suffer any invitation to be admitted as a plea but from men in office, who act in conjunction with the Superintendent of that Circuit which he visits." The design of this Rule is to prevent any, under the character of Local Preachers, from burdening the people, either by collecting money, or by living upon them ; and to prevent improper persons, who bear no part of the expense, from inviting Local Preachers thus to visit them. But it never was intended to reflect the least disrespect on any of our worthy brethren,

the Local Preachers, whom, considered as a body, we greatly respect. And it should not be lost sight of, that several of the most respectable Local Preachers in the kingdom, who were in the Committee which met the Committee of Preachers appointed by the Conference, declared their high approbation of the Rule, and desired that it might be strengthened as much as possible, as none could justly complain of it.

4. As the Committee above mentioned requested also, that the Minute of the last Conference, concerning the calling of Meetings to consider of the affairs of the Society or Connexion, be explained; and as we are exceedingly desirous of preserving the peace and union of the whole Body, we have agreed upon the following explanation, namely,—

(1) As the Leaders' Meeting is the proper Meeting for the Society, and the Quarterly Meeting for the Circuit, we think that other formal Meetings, in general, would be contrary to the Methodist Economy, and very prejudicial in their consequences. But,

(2) In order to be as tender as possible, consistently with what we believe to be essential to the welfare of our Societies, we allow that other formal Meetings may be held if they first receive the approbation of the Superintendent and the Leaders' or Quarterly Meeting; provided also, that the Superintendent, if he please, be present at every such Meeting.

V. We have selected all our ancient Rules, which were made before the death of our late venerable Father in the Gospel, the Rev. Mr. Wesley, which are essential Rules, or prudential at this present time; and have solemnly signed them, declaring our approbation of them, and determination to comply with them, two Preachers excepted, who, in consequence, withdrew from us.

VI. We have determined that all the Rules which relate to the Societies, Leaders, Stewards, Local Preachers, Trustees, and Quarterly Meetings, shall be published, with the Rules of the Society, for the benefit and convenience of all the members.

VII. In respect to all new Rules which shall be made by the Conference:

It is determined that, if at any time the Conference see it necessary to make any new Rule for the Societies at large,

and such Rule should be objected to at the first Quarterly Meeting in any given Circuit, and if the major part of that Meeting, in conjunction with the Preachers,¹ be of opinion that the enforcing of such Rule in that Circuit will be injurious to the prosperity of that Circuit, it shall not be enforced in opposition to the judgment of such Quarterly Meeting before the second Conference. But if the Rule be confirmed by the second Conference, it shall be binding to the whole Connexion. Nevertheless, the Quarterly Meetings rejecting a new Rule shall not, by publications, public Meetings, or otherwise, make that Rule a cause of contention, but shall strive by every means to preserve the peace of the Connexion.

Thus, brethren, we have given up the greatest part of our executive government into your hands, as represented in your different public Meetings.

1. We have delivered the whole of our Yearly Collection to your management. For we know by experience that the bills of the Quarterly Meetings, if only mere justice be done to the Preachers and their families, will amount to much more than the Yearly Collection. The Conference will, in this business, have no authority whatsoever. They will have nothing but the trouble of receiving the money, and paying the bills which shall have been sent to them from the Quarterly Meetings, and been approved of by the District Committees. And when the accounts are published by the Conference, every Quarterly Meeting may compare its own accounts with those of the Conference, and thereby have as complete a check as the nature of things can possibly admit of.

The Conference has reserved to itself the management of its own Book concerns. This is most reasonable, as the institution was established for the carrying on of the work of God, under the direction of Mr. Wesley and the Conference; was continued by the Deed, or codicil of Mr. Wesley's Will, for the use of the Conference; as the whole burden of the management of the business lies upon the Conference, and the servants they employ, and on the Superintendents of Circuits; and also, as it is the only Fund which can supply any deficiencies of the Yearly Collection, as the accounts published in our Minutes

¹ The words "in conjunction with the Preachers" were formally *withdrawn* by the Conference of 1852 (vol. xii. p. 117).

for several years past clearly evidence, the Yearly Collection having not been nearly sufficient for the wants of the Preachers and families, and for the carrying on of the work of God in general.

2. The whole management of our temporal concerns may now be truly said to be invested in the Quarterly Meetings, the District Meetings having nothing left them but a negative.

3. Our Societies have a full check on the Superintendent by means of their Leaders' Meeting, in regard to the introduction of persons into Society; whilst the Superintendent has sufficient scope allowed him for the increase of the Societies, not only according to the common course of things, but at the times of remarkable outpourings of the Spirit of God.

4. The members of our Societies are delivered from every apprehension of clandestine expulsions; as that Superintendent would be bold indeed who would act with partiality or injustice in the presence of the whole Meeting of Leaders. Such a Superintendent, we trust, we have not among us; and if such there ever should be, we should be ready to do all possible justice to our injured brethren.

5. There is now no Society-Officer among us who can be received without the consent of that Meeting to which he particularly belongs; nor can any Officer be appointed, except upon the same plan.

6. In order to prevent any degree of precipitation in making of new Rules, and to obtain information of the sentiments of our people on every such Rule, we have agreed to the article mentioned under the seventh head, by which no Regulations will be finally confirmed till after a year's consideration, and the knowledge of the sentiments of the Connexion at large, through the medium of all their public Officers.

In short, brethren, out of our great love for peace and union, and our great desire to satisfy your minds, we have given up to you far the greatest part of the Superintendent's authority; and if we consider that the Quarterly Meetings are the sources from whence all temporal Regulations during the intervals of the Conference must now originally spring, and also that the Committee formed according to the Plan of Pacification can—in every instance in which the Trustees, Leaders, and Stewards choose to interfere respecting the gifts, doctrines, or moral

character of Preachers—supersede in a great measure the regular District Committees ; we may, taking all these things into our view, truly say that such have been the sacrifices we have made, that our District Committees themselves have hardly any authority remaining, but a bare negative in general, and the appointment of a Representative to assist in drawing up the rough draft of the Stations of the Preachers. And besides all this, we have given the Quarterly Meetings opportunity of considering every new law, of suspending the execution of it for a year in their respective Circuits, and of sending their sentiments upon it to the Conference before it be finally confirmed.

We have represented these measures which we have taken for your satisfaction, in as concise a manner as we well could, giving you the sense of the whole, not only for brevity's sake, but for expedition, that you may be informed of the general heads of our proceedings as soon as possible. In the Regulations which will be published with the Rules of the Society, as mentioned above, you will have the whole at large.

XXXV. SUNDRY ADVICES TO THE PREACHERS.

Be tender of the character of every brother, but keep at the utmost distance from countenancing sin.

Say nothing in the Conference but what is strictly necessary, and to the point in hand.

If accused by anyone, remember, recrimination is no acquittance ; therefore avoid it.

Beware of impatience of contradiction ; be firm, but be open to conviction. The cause is God's, and He needs not the hands of an Uzzah to support the ark. The being too tenacious of a point, because *you* brought it forward, is only feeding self. Be quite easy if a majority decide against you.

Use no craft or guile to gain a point. Genuine simplicity will always support itself. But there is no need always to say all you know or think.

Beware of too much confidence in your own abilities, and never despise an opponent.

Avoid all lightness of spirit, even what would be innocent anywhere else. "Thou God seest me."

APPENDIX III

RESOLUTIONS ON PASTORAL WORK.

OURSELVES AND OUR FAMILIES.

WE, on this solemn occasion, devote ourselves afresh to God; and resolve, in humble dependence on His grace, to be more than ever attentive to personal religion, and to the Christian instruction and government of our families. And we further resolve to cultivate more fully the spirit of Christian Pastors, so that all our intercourse with our people may be to edification; and as "overseers of the flock," to give ourselves to the work of "warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus." And in order to this, let us frequently read and carefully study Mr. Wesley's *Twelve Rules of a Helper*, and other parts of the "Large Minutes" which relate to the duties of a Preacher and Pastor.

Let us daily consecrate ourselves fully and entirely to our proper work as the servants of Christ and of His Church, giving ourselves "wholly" to it, both in public and private. Let us strictly guard against all occupations of our time and thoughts which have no direct relation to our great calling, and which would injuriously divert our attention from the momentous task of "saving them that hear us," and "taking care of the Church of God."

Let us afresh, solemnly and heartily recognise the original purpose of Methodism, "to spread Scriptural holiness through the land," and ever regard this as the first and great calling of the Methodist people, and especially of the Preachers. And let us determine, in the Name of God, that this idea shall rule our whole life, and that every pursuit and design shall be

subordinated to this our high and special calling (1820, vol. v. p. 147 ; 1835, vol. vii. p. 551 ; 1848, vol. xi. p. 108).

THE STUDY.

Let us humbly and earnestly seek a more complete preparation for the great work of the Ministry, and especially that richer "unction of the Holy One" which is vouchsafed only to men who live near to God. This anointing for our office would yield what most of all we ourselves need and desire,—a large increase of ardent piety and of vigorous faith ; holy importunity in prayer, and irresistible persuasiveness in preaching.

Let us "covet earnestly the best gifts," to qualify us for an effective and useful Ministry, and let us seek them in fervent prayer to Him who is the Father of lights and the Fountain of wisdom. Let us meanwhile "stir up the gift of God which is in us," and improve our talents by close study and diligent cultivation ; and especially let every one of us "study to show" himself "approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." Let us take care that, whatever other qualifications we may acquire and use, our Ministry shall at least be always marked by sound evangelical doctrine, by plainness of speech, and by a spirit of tender affection and burning zeal (1820, vol. v. p. 147 ; 1848, vol. xi. p. 108).

THE PULPIT.

Let us preach constantly the leading and vital doctrines of the Gospel: repentance toward God ; a present, free, and full salvation from sin ;—a salvation flowing from the grace of God alone, "through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus," and apprehended by the simple exercise of faith ;—a salvation which begins with the forgiveness of sins (this forgiveness being certified to the penitent believer by the Holy Spirit) and (by means of this witness, but by the power of that Divine Spirit who bears the witness) a change of heart :—a salvation which is itself the only entrance to a course of practical holiness.

And let us preach these cardinal doctrines in our primitive

method,—evangelically and experimentally, with apostolical earnestness and zeal, and with great simplicity. Let us “labour in the word and doctrine”; applying our discourses closely and lovingly to the various classes of our hearers, and “by manifestation of the truth, commending ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God.”

Remembering that the prominence which is properly given in the Methodist pulpit to the doctrine of present salvation is ever liable to Antinomian abuses, let us diligently and evangelically preach the precepts as well as the privileges of the Gospel, expounding them carefully and applying them faithfully.

Let us build up our people in knowledge and holiness; urging them to fidelity in family duties, and especially in the godly training up of their children; and, in general, to “follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.”

In every place, let us speak plainly and pointedly on the duty and advantage of Christian communion, and exhort all who are seeking salvation to avail themselves, without delay, of the help of our more private means of grace.

In particular, let us urge upon all our people a conscientious and frequent observance of the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper; expounding its nature; instructing the young, and reasoning with the timid and the doubting; and setting forth the duty and blessedness of “showing the Lord’s death till He come” (1820, vol. v. pp. 147, 148, 150; 1821, vol. v. p. 250; 1835, vol. vii. p. 552).

SOCIETY MEETINGS.

Being fully persuaded that the regular and frequent meeting of our Societies is of vital importance to the prosperity and perpetuation of the work of God amongst our people, let us meet the principal Societies regularly on the Lord’s day, and frequently on the week evenings in country places. And let us make such Meetings interesting and profitable to our Members by information as to the state of the work of God in the Circuit generally; by reference to the special circumstances of the Society then present; and by explaining our own Rules,

and "putting the Brethren in remembrance" of their specific duties, both personal and domestic.

And from time to time let us exhort our Members, in the event of their removing into other Circuits, to secure a Note of Removal, and to seek immediate connexion with the Society in the place whither they go to reside.

And inasmuch as religion in our Societies depends largely upon the cultivation amongst us of family religion, let us earnestly press upon our people the regular and devout observance of family worship, accompanied by the reading of Holy Scripture. And in order to a due discharge of this most important domestic duty, a suitable and sufficient portion of time should be conscientiously set apart in the morning and evening of each day, when the attendance of all the members of the household, servants included, should be arranged for and required.

Let us also at such Meetings earnestly exhort our Societies to make the best and most religious use of the rest and leisure of the Lord's day. Let us urge upon our Members to sanctify the Sabbath day, not only personally, but in their families, by "commanding their children and their households to keep the way of the Lord"; and especially by a regular attendance upon the public worship of Almighty God, both morning and evening, and by arranging that, in their families, as few persons as possible are kept at home.

And let us show to our people the evil of wasting, in visits or in receiving company, those hours of the holy Sabbath which are not spent in public worship; and that such a practice tends to the neglect of private prayer, of the study of the Scriptures, and of the religious instruction of children—and also to the spiritual injury of domestic servants, who are thereby needlessly kept at work on the day of rest, and deprived of the public means of grace.

And, lastly, let us guard our people against the danger of expending all their time and energy on local and subordinate enterprises and works of charity, to the neglect of the public preaching of the Gospel, the Weekly Meeting for prayer and intercession, and the Class Meeting. Let us show them that, by a wise economy of time, they may "fulfil their course" of benevolent activities without robbing God of the public worship

which He demands. And on this question let us, as occasion serves, remind our Members that, under the Divine blessing, the prosperity of the spiritual work of God depends upon the regular and conscientious use of His institutions, for it is through the means that we reach the end; and our own history shows that, in the success of the spiritual work of God, all other good undertakings among us had their origin, and have ever had their principal support. "These things ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone" (1820, vol. v. pp. 149, 150, 151; 1821, vol. v. p. 250; 1836, vol. viii. p. 86; 1848, vol. xi. pp. 108, 109).

LEADERS' MEETINGS.

Let us regularly meet the Class Leaders, both in town and country; and at each Leaders' Meeting let us carefully examine the entries made in the Class Books relative to the attendance of the Members, in order that prompt and practical measures may be taken in cases which, on inquiry, shall be found to demand the exercise of discipline, "the word of exhortation," or kindly counsel and Christian sympathy.

From the beginning, Leaders' Meetings have been found essential to the Pastoral care and spiritual prosperity of our Societies, and also to the orderly transaction of their financial concerns. Where Leaders' Meetings are frequently held, the work of the Leaders is done more perfectly. And by a minute examination of the Class Books in the presence of the Leaders, we learn who are the sick, the careless, or the lukewarm; and then, in making Pastoral visits, we are prepared to go, "not only to those who want us, but to those who want us most." Let us, therefore, see to it that Leaders' Meetings are held regularly and as often as practicable, not only in the towns in which ministers reside, but also in the principal country places.

As much depends, under the blessing of God, on the piety, zeal, and devotion, the Scriptural knowledge and Christian temper of our Leaders, and also on their intelligent and hearty approval of the Doctrines and Discipline of Methodism, let us, before nominating a new Leader, satisfy ourselves, by previous inquiry and personal examination, as to the character and qualifications of the person proposed.

Whenever a new Leader, nominated by us and accepted by the Leaders' Meeting, is first introduced to the Meeting, let us take that opportunity of stating the duties which belong to the office. And in particular, let us urge upon our Leaders the vital importance of seeing or communicating with each of their Members once a week.

Let us promote in every place the observance of those parts of our Discipline which refer to Watch-nights, private and public Bands, and Quarterly Fast Days (1820, vol. v. pp. 149, 150; 1826, vol. vi. p. 168).

QUARTERLY VISITATION OF THE CLASSES.

Believing that, next to the public "Ministry of the Word," the Quarterly Visitation of the Classes is our most important official work; and remembering that to those of our Members who are not accessible for visitation at their own homes, the Visitation of the Classes is probably their only opportunity of direct intercourse with their Ministers, let us be careful each quarter to meet personally every Class, never sending the Tickets to the Leader.

And in making the Ticket Plan, let us so arrange the Visitation as not to crowd too many Classes together; but rather, by beginning the work early in the quarter, allow sufficient time in meeting each Class for a careful examination of the Members as to their Christian knowledge, experience, and practice, and for inquiry as to family religion; and also for suitable Pastoral advice, encouragement or admonition, for "consolation in Christ," for "comfort of love," for "fellowship of the Spirit."

And, in connexion with the Visitation of the Classes, let us on the one hand inquire particularly into the experience and habits of those whom we find "on Trial," and receive into Society those only who, after due probation, may fairly be "counted worthy." And, on the other hand, let us not, upon slight grounds, return any person as having "ceased to meet"; but, before writing off such a one, let us inquire particularly into the case; and, wherever practicable, let us ourselves visit the person; and thus, "by all means save some" of the many who "forsake the assembling of themselves together" (1821, vol. v. p. 250; 1847, vol. x. p. 550).

PASTORAL VISITATION.

We recognise the absolute obligation which is laid upon us—and which was solemnly acknowledged at the time we received Ordination—to secure, by mutual consultation and arrangement, such a general, stated, and efficient visitation of our people at their own dwellings as is involved in the Scriptural command to “feed the Church of God,” and in the example of St. Paul, who “taught” the people “publicly, and from house to house”; and also in those other Scriptures which, in varied language, represent Christian Ministers as the under-shepherds of the flock of God—Jesus Christ Himself being the “Chief Shepherd.”

We are persuaded that the unity and edification of our Societies, and the good feeling of our people generally, would be promoted by increased Pastoral intercourse with them at their own homes. And, in the present day, the perilous exposure of our Members to the manifold fascinations of worldliness demands unremitting diligence on our part; and especially that, in connexion with our Pastoral visits, there should be, wherever practicable, the reading of a suitable portion of Holy Scripture, and prayer.

We do not forget that the cares and labours, both spiritual and economical, which devolve upon Ministers, and in particular upon Superintendents, are steadily increasing; but at the same time the proportion of Ministers to Members is also increasing. And we are convinced that, by a wise economy of time, by energy and perseverance, and especially by system and method, much more Pastoral visitation may be accomplished.

We therefore resolve to give ourselves afresh and more fully to this part of our work; and we agree to devote regularly certain portions of our time for the purpose of visiting the Members of our Societies “from house to house.” And we will strive to make our visits profitable to the people, by kindly inquiry into their Christian experience, by giving seasonable counsel, and by exhorting them to a faithful and loving observance of all the duties of personal and family religion.

In particular, let us care for the aged, the infirm, the sick, and the poor; let us keep watch over the lukewarm and the careless; and let us pay special attention to backsliders. "In the spirit of meekness," and in much patience, let us endeavour to "restore" them that have been "overtaken in a fault," and seek by private efforts, as well as by our public ministrations, to recover the fallen "out of the snare of the devil." And, lastly, when we go to our country appointments on week evenings, let us secure time, before the public service, for the Pastoral visitation of village Methodists (1820, vol. v. p. 150; 1821, vol. v. p. 249; 1830, vol. vi. p. 612; 1835, vol. vii. p. 652; 1847, vol. x. pp. 548, 549, 550, 557).

OVERSIGHT OF THE YOUNG.

In order that the work of God may be perpetuated among us, let us, in public and in private, pay particular spiritual attention to the young people of our Societies and congregations. Let us frequently and affectionately speak to them on their peculiar dangers and duties, and seek to enlist their intelligent sympathy with our Doctrines and Discipline; and that they "may be delivered from this present evil world, according to the will of God," let us strive to lead them to an earnest consecration of themselves to the service of Christ and His Church.

And to secure increased facilities for such ministrations, let us, wherever practicable, make arrangements for obtaining Pastoral access at stated times to the young persons of the Methodist families between the ages of fourteen to twenty-one; with a view to promote their spiritual welfare by personal instruction, exhortation, appeal, and prayer (1820, vol. v. p. 149; 1827, vol. vi. p. 281; 1845, vol. x. p. 242).

CARE FOR THE CHILDREN.

We are convinced of the obligation which rests on all Christian Pastors to feed and take the oversight of the lambs, as well as of the sheep of the flock of Christ; and we agree to hold, wherever practicable, Weekly Meetings with the Children of our people (1847, vol. x. p. 546; 1875, vol. xix. p. 711).

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

Let us afford to our Sunday Schools all possible encouragement and aid ; by attending their Committee and Teachers' Meetings ; by visiting the principal Schools at least once in every quarter ; and by giving, as occasion serves, advice and counsel to the Officers and Teachers (1826, vol. vi. p. 170).

CATECHETICAL INSTRUCTION.

Let us recommend, both in Sunday Schools and in the families of our people, the practice of Catechetical instruction, in order that, "being rooted and grounded" in "those things which are most surely believed among us," our children may in after years "hold fast the form of sound words." And let us commend everywhere our own Catechisms (1820, vol. v. p. 150).

COTTAGE PRAYER MEETINGS.

Let us encourage Prayer Meetings in the houses of our friends at such times as will not interfere with attendance at our Chapels and other preaching places. For when prudently conducted by persons of established piety and competent gifts, and duly superintended by the Ministers and the Leaders' Meetings, such services are productive of much good among the poor ; and have often proved the means of grace and salvation to many who could not, at first, have been reached in any other way (1820, vol. v. p. 148).

COTTAGE PREACHING.

In populous neighbourhoods where there is a general neglect of the means of grace already established, let us preach in private houses, especially in the cottages of the poor ; that so we may gain access to "them that are without," and, by the Divine blessing, bring them under concern for salvation, and win them over to attendance on public worship in the house of God (1821, vol. v. p. 249).

FORMING NEW CLASSES.

In our old and large Societies especially, let us from time to time appoint new leaders, active and zealous men and women, "of honest report, and full of the Holy Ghost and of wisdom," and encourage them to form new Classes in suitable neighbourhoods; and let us seek thus to gather into the fold of Christ those persons who, it may be, live at a distance from any chapel, yet are "not far from the kingdom of God"; but who need special invitation, and are not likely to "give themselves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God," without more than ordinary enterprise and spiritual attention (1820, vol. v. p. 148).

VISITATION OF VILLAGES.

In country places, where it is not possible at present to appoint Preachers regularly, let suitable persons attend, under the direction of the Superintendent, for the purpose of public prayer and exhortation, and occasionally to read to the congregation a short and plain sermon, until such places can be supplied regularly with Local Preachers. And let us conscientiously care for and watch over the country places already on the Plan (1820, vol. v. p. 147).

OPENING NEW PLACES.

In every Circuit, let us try to open new places, and let us try again places which have not been recently visited; and let us not be satisfied until every town, village, and hamlet shall be blessed, so far as we can accomplish it, with the means of grace and salvation. And with a view to a revival and extension of the work of God, let us have recourse, even in our old-established Circuits, to the practice of preaching out of doors; seeking in order to save that which is lost (1820, vol. v. p. 147).

EXTENSION OF METHODISM.

In a word, let every one of us consider himself called to be, in point of enterprise, zeal, and diligence, a Home Missionary;

and to enlarge and extend, as well as keep, the Circuit to which he is appointed (1820, vol. v. p. 148).

OFFICIAL MEETINGS.

In conducting Quarterly Meetings, and all other Official Meetings, let us steadily discourage the spirit of strife and debate, and firmly disallow the introduction of all topics of irritating discussion not legitimately arising out of the proper business of the Meeting. Let us remember that the only way to live in peace is to walk by rule; and in the administration of all our affairs, in the Society and in the Circuit, let us cultivate the spirit and exhibit the manner of men who are acting for God in the service of His Church (1820, vol. v. p. 150).

PASTORAL RESPONSIBILITY.

Whilst we readily and cheerfully protect our Office-Bearers and Members, in Meetings over which we preside, in the exercise of such functions as belong to them, according to our Laws and Usage,—let us not forget that we are under obligation to act on such occasions, not merely as the Chairmen of Public Meetings, but also as the Pastors of Christian Societies; who, by the ordinance of God, and by their own voluntary association with us, are “put in trust with” the Scriptural oversight of their spiritual affairs, and are directly responsible to the great Head of the Church for the discreet and faithful discharge of the duties of that “trust” (1820, vol. v. p. 151).

CATHOLICITY.

Let us ourselves remember, and from time to time impress upon our people, that we, as a Connexion, do not exist for the purpose of party. If at any time we are tempted to “entangle ourselves with affairs” which are foreign to the exclusive calling of Methodist Ministers, let us resolve, in dependence upon the grace of God, to keep aloof from all merely party purposes, and from party spirit. By the example of our Founder, by the original principle on which our Societies are formed, and by our professions before the world, we are bound

to beware of a sectarian spirit, to avoid the appearance of bigotry, and to abstain from disputes on minor subjects of theological controversy. In our occasional intercourse with the Ministers and Members of other Churches, "let every one of us please his neighbour, for his good, to edification"; and towards all denominations of Christians "holding the Head," let us maintain the kind and catholic spirit of primitive Methodism, and ever show ourselves "the friends of all, the enemies of none" (1820, vol. v. p. 148; 1835, vol. vii. p. 552).

CONCLUSION.

And, being deeply sensible that, in order to the revival and extension of the work of God, the great thing to be desired is an abundant effusion of the Holy Spirit on ourselves and our families, our Societies and our Congregations; we solemnly agree to seek that blessing by humble and earnest prayer; in our private supplications, in our family devotions, and in the pulpit; and we desire to "continue with one accord in prayer and supplication" "until the Spirit be poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness become a fruitful field, and the fruitful field be counted for a forest" (1820, vol. v. p. 152; 1822, vol. v. p. 338).

For *The Twelve Rules of a Helper*, see *The Form of Discipline*, pp. 478, 479.

RESOLUTIONS AFFECTING MINISTERS GENERALLY.

KEEPING UP OUR OWN DISCIPLINE.

In addition to the zealous and faithful preaching of the Gospel in all our congregations, and wherever we can obtain access for that purpose, we once more earnestly exhort our Preachers firmly, vigilantly, and affectionately to enforce, in all our Societies, every part of our Discipline.

We particularly require that the Societies shall be frequently met, apart from the congregation at large, and suitably addressed on the various relative duties, on the due sanctification of the Sabbath, and other appropriate topics. And that when the Lord's Supper is administered, the Communicants shall be

previously required to produce their Society Tickets, or Notes of Admission, according to our established Rules (1825, vol. vi. p. 65).

SUNDAY EVENING PRAYER MEETINGS.

Though the Conference approves of occasional Meetings for Prayer in our Chapels, after the evening preaching on the Lord's day, as there are seasons when an extraordinary influence may render them proper; yet it advises that such Meetings shall be only occasional, and that the Preacher's ordinary practice shall be to meet the Societies, and give suitable counsel to the various Classes of our people (1836, vol. viii. p. 86).

SPECIAL SOCIETY MEETINGS.

In addition to the practice of meeting the Societies weekly on the evening of the Lord's day, the Conference recommends that the Preachers should appoint times, whether once in a month or once in a quarter, for holding Special Society Meetings, either on the afternoon of the Sabbath or on some evening of the week, to be devoted exclusively to that purpose; when, if practicable, all the Preachers of the Circuit should be present, and unite in endeavouring to make such Special Society Meetings instructive and useful to our people (1836, vol. viii. p. 87).

CLASS MEETINGS.

The Conference cherishes an ever-deepening conviction of the value of that spiritual fellowship with each other which our people have been wont to maintain in a regular attendance on our Class Meetings; believing that, in this course, the Members of our Societies, of all ages, and all varieties of knowledge, position, and attainment, are best enabled to walk comfortably with God, to nourish that simple and ardent piety which is their only safeguard against the dangers and seductions of the age, to train up spiritually-minded Office-Bearers for future service, and to prepare to render up their account with joy. The Conference, therefore, exhorts all our Ministers to watch over our Class Meetings with holy jealousy; to use every effort to maintain them strictly in all their efficiency; and with

unceasing diligence, to direct both their public instructions and their private Pastoral influence towards this object (1855, vol. xiii. p. 110).¹

CLASS BOOKS.

The Conference requires every Minister to see that the Class Books are properly filled up and kept; especially with reference to the insertion of the names and residences of the Members; and to make such use of these Books as he may deem necessary for the purpose of Pastoral Visitation (1847, vol. x. p. 549).

CLASS LEADERS.

The Conference enjoins that the attention of the Class Leaders be again particularly directed to that original Rule of our Societies which requires Leaders to give stated information to the Minister of those Members who are sick, or need to be specially visited (1847, vol. x. p. 549).

RECOGNITION OF NEW MEMBERS.

The Conference resolves that it is very desirable to adopt some more public and formal mode of admitting New Members into Society. But that, as the circumstances of different Circuits, in town and country, are very dissimilar, it is not expedient to lay down specific Rules as to the exact nature of the Meetings to be held for the reception of New Members, or as to the frequency with which such Meetings should be held (1878, p. 186).

KEEPING IN OUR OWN CIRCUITS.

The Conference enjoins it as a sacred duty upon all the Preachers, and especially on those excellent Brethren who are most frequently selected for such occasions (preaching Anniversary Sermons), to restrict their engagements of that kind within such bounds as will consist with their paramount and indispensable obligations to their own Circuits (1836, vol. viii. p. 87).

¹ On the subject of the Class Meeting, see *Report of the Committee on Church Membership*, adopted by the Conference of 1889 (*Minutes*, pp. 404-413).

RESOLUTIONS AFFECTING SUPERINTENDENTS ESPECIALLY.

EXAMINATION OF CLASS LEADERS.

Let a strict inquiry be made by the Superintendent Preacher in the Leaders' Meeting, at least twice in the year, into the moral character of all the Leaders; their punctuality in beginning and ending their Class Meetings in proper time; and everything that relates to their office (1811, vol. iii. p. 222).

LOCAL PREACHERS.

Considering the exigencies of our work, and the fact that our supply of Ministers is drawn from our Local Preachers, the Conference resolves that it is desirable and necessary that steps should be taken to secure in every Circuit an ample and efficient supply of this most useful class of labourers. And that Superintendents should direct their special attention to eligible and promising young men in their respective Circuits, with a view to their becoming Local Preachers; and, as far as practicable, should direct their reading and studies to that end.

The Conference further recommends that, wherever it is practicable, a Theological Class shall be formed in each Circuit, for the purpose of assisting the Local Preachers in their Theological studies (1876, vol. xx. p. 156).

PASTORAL ADDRESS TO BE GIVEN.

The Superintendents are directed gratuitously to furnish to every Local Preacher, Steward, and Class Leader, in their respective Circuits, a copy of the "Annual Pastoral Address of the Conference to the Methodist Societies" (1837, vol. viii. p. 225).

PASTORAL ADDRESS TO BE READ.

The Superintendents are directed to appoint at each principal Chapel in their Circuits a Special Society Meeting, for the purpose of having the "Pastoral Address" read to the Society, and made the subject of suitable remarks and exhortations (1838, vol. viii. p. 360).

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY.

The Conference directs that each large Circuit be divided into Sections, according to a mutual arrangement to be made by the Ministers at their Weekly Meetings; and that each Minister be held responsible for the visitation of his own Section (1847, vol. x. p. 550).

OFFICIAL INQUIRY.

The Conference directs that this important department of Ministerial duty be statedly made the subject of direct and specific inquiry and conversation, both by the Superintendents of Circuits in their Weekly Meetings with their respective colleagues, and by the Chairmen of Districts in their several District Synods (1847, vol. x. p. 550).

EVENING VISITATION.

The Conference suggests that the general Ministerial duties of Circuits should, in given cases, be so allotted and arranged as that families, especially among the working classes, which cannot be collected or found during the day, may be visited in the evening (1874, vol. x. p. 548).

WEEKLY CHILDREN'S MEETINGS.

The Preachers are solemnly enjoined to hold, wherever practicable, regular Weekly Meetings with the Children of our people, under the age of fourteen, on the most convenient day of the week, in every town where a Preacher has his stated residence, according to our ancient rule and practice. And inquiry shall be made in Ministers' Meetings, and in the May District Synods, respecting the observance of this Regulation (1875, vol. xix. p. 711).

JUNIOR SOCIETY CLASSES.

The Conference resolves that Junior Society Classes, which directly provide for the religious instruction and training of

young people—which have as their object the awakening of Christian sensibility and the development of Christian experience and character, and which for these purposes specifically make use of Scripture instruction—shall be generally established in connexion with our Societies (1878, p. 184).

EXAMINATION IN CATECHISM.

The Conference recommends the Superintendents of Circuits, wherever they may find it practicable, to make arrangements, in conjunction with the Sunday School Committees, for the Annual Public Examination in the Catechism of the Children of our Sunday Schools; and that such an Examination shall, where possible, be held in the Chapels (1882, p. 224).

ROLL OF MEMBERSHIP.

Every Superintendent is required to leave for his successor an exact list of the names of all the Members in his Circuit, arranged in their several Classes and Societies, as found at the preceding Midsummer Visitation (1820, vol. v. p. 152).

APPENDIX IV

OTHER LEADING RESOLUTIONS OF THE CONFERENCE ON PASTORAL DUTIES, AND THE PROMOTION OF SPIRITUAL RELIGION.

I. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED IN 1821.

QUESTION. What are the Spiritual State and Prospects of our Societies in general?

Answer. The Conference having appointed a time, as last year, for special conversation on the State of Religion in our Societies, and on the best means of further promoting the Work of God, was thankful to receive much pleasing and encouraging information from various parts of the Connexion; and from the statements given by several of the Preachers respecting the means which appear to have been especially owned of God, was led to agree upon the following particulars, viz. :—

1. We resolve that there shall be a regular observance of the Quarterly Fasts in all our Circuits, as appointed by Mr. Wesley; which are, the first Fridays after Michaelmas-day, Christmas-day, Lady-day, and Midsummer-day; on which occasions, public Prayer Meetings shall be held in all our Chapels, at those hours which may be deemed most convenient for the attendance of our people. At the Annual District Meetings, the Chairmen are directed to make particular inquiries concerning the conduct of the brethren, in reference to this Regulation.

2. We agree strongly to advise the Members of our Society, especially in large towns, to meet in those Classes which are the nearest to their respective places of residence; in order that their attendance may be less liable to interruption, and that they may be visited with greater facility by their Leaders.

3. We earnestly exhort all our Preachers to be increasingly

diligent in Pastoral visits to the families of our people ; endeavouring to render such visits eminently profitable to all present, by prayer, and by spiritual conversation.

4. We recommend to the Preachers, in all cases where it is practicable, the establishment and superintendence of Prayer Meetings in private houses ; as being calculated not only to call into exercise the gifts of our people, and to promote their religious improvement, but also to awaken the attention of the ignorant and profligate to the concerns of their souls, as well as to obtain the special blessing of God upon the public ministry of His word.

5. We strongly advise the Preachers in their respective Circuits, particularly in the more populous districts, and where there is a general neglect of the means of grace already established, to avail themselves of every opportunity to preach in private houses, especially in the cottages of the poor ; not for the purpose of superseding the regular exercise of their Ministry in our Chapels, or other places of public worship, but in order to obtain access to the more neglected part of the people, and to bring those who are at present living without God in the world under such a concern for the salvation of their souls, as will induce them to become stated attendants upon the ordinances of the Lord's house.

6. The distribution of religious Tracts having, in many instances, been followed by the most beneficial results, the Conference recommends it to the Preachers, and to our people in general, to form Associations in the different Circuits, for a regular and systematic circulation of Tracts, especially of those written by Mr. Wesley, in the way of loan or otherwise as may be deemed expedient.

7. We again exhort all our people, who have opportunity, to meet in Band, as an old-established usage in our Connexion, and an important means of improvement in personal religion ; and the Preachers are directed to hold general meetings of the Bands in every Society where it is practicable.

8. For the spiritual benefit of our people, and in order that the blessing of God may rest upon their families, we earnestly press upon them the orderly and devout exercise of family-worship, accompanied by a deliberate reading of the Holy Scriptures. In order to a due discharge of this most important

duty, a suitable portion of time should be conscientiously set apart on the morning and evening of every day, when the attendance of all the members of the family, including the servants, should be required.

9. We again solemnly resolve, after the example of our venerable Fathers in the Gospel, with all plainness and zeal to preach a free, present, and full salvation from sin—a salvation flowing from the mere grace of God, through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus, apprehended by the simple exercise of faith, and indispensably preparatory to a course of practical holiness. And in this great work our only reliance for success is upon the promised grace of the Holy Spirit; by whose inspiration alone it is that the Gospel, in any instance, is rendered the “power of God unto salvation.”

10. The Conference also requires that in every Circuit the Plans for the Quarterly Visitation of the Societies shall be so arranged as not to crowd too many Classes together, but to afford proper time for a minute examination of the Members, and for suitable advice, encouragement, and admonition.

11. We once more solemnly call upon the Members of our Society conscientiously to sanctify the Sabbath day, both individually and in their families; especially by a regular attendance upon the public worship of Almighty God in the *forenoon*, as well as on the subsequent services of that sacred day, and by suffering as few persons under their care as possible to be detained at home.

12. We also advise the Preachers occasionally to invite, after preaching on the Lord's day, such persons as may be seriously concerned for the salvation of their souls, to call upon them and converse with them on the following day at an hour which they may appoint for this purpose.

13. The Conference directs that the *Twelve Rules of a Helper*, and the *Results of the Conversation on carrying on the Work of God*, inserted in the Minutes of 1820, shall be annually read by the Chairman in every District Meeting, and proper time allowed for examination, and for useful conversation on the several subjects to which they refer.

14. The Preachers are peremptorily required to read the “Pastoral Address” of the Conference to all the Societies in their respective Circuits.

II. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED IN 1835.

The present peculiar circumstances of the Connexion having directed the Preachers, assembled in this Conference, to a careful and solemn consideration of the great work in which they are engaged, they feel it their duty to pledge themselves anew to the principles laid down in certain important Resolutions of the Conference held at Liverpool in 1820; but as upwards of three hundred and fifty Preachers have been admitted into the Connexion since that period, they deem it proper further to express their views and purposes on points of even more vital consequence than general disciplinary Regulations; and therefore resolve, unanimously,—

1. That we do again most solemnly and heartily recognise the original purpose of Methodism, “to spread Scriptural holiness through the land,” as the first and great calling of the whole Body, and especially of the Preachers; and determine, in the strength of God, to make this the great rule of all our other designs, and to renounce or subordinate all other plans and pursuits to this our special calling.

2. That since the spread and increase of true godliness in our Societies, and through the world, as far as it may be connected with *our* instrumentality, depends so greatly upon our maintaining the principles and spirit of our Fathers in the Ministry, we resolve more than ever to study their character and lives, and to be followers of their faith and conversation; that we may be more thoroughly imbued with the spirit of true Christianity, and more conformed to the Scriptural standard of personal holiness; so that by our living, as well as by our preaching, we may hold forth the Word of Life, and rejoice, in the day of Christ, that we have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

3. That as the spirit of the times exposes us, in common with our people, to peculiar excitements and temptations in reference to matters foreign to the exclusive calling of Methodist Ministers,—we resolve, in dependence upon the grace of God, to keep aloof from all merely party purposes, and from party spirit; and to caution and warn our people against these evils.

4. That we will use our best endeavours to convince of their errors, by reason and by Scripture, any of our people who may

be deluded by the various arts of those who oppose us; and that by every consistent means we will seek the recovery of such as we believe to be the deceived, rather than the deceivers, especially when there is reason to hope that they have not, by their general spirit and conduct, rendered themselves unworthy of Christian communion with us.

5. That our conviction is more decided than ever, that those doctrines of Christianity which we consider it our peculiar calling to publish, enforce, and defend, have always been acknowledged of God as His truth, and are the great means of saving sinners, and bringing them into connexion with His Church. We are therefore resolved to be explicit and careful in stating them, and faithful and urgent in their application to the consciences of our hearers. And being aware that the prominence which among us has always been properly given to the doctrine of a present salvation is ever liable to Antinomian abuses, and that under present circumstances we are peculiarly exposed to certain dangers of that description, we will diligently and evangelically preach the precepts as well as the privileges of the Gospel; endeavouring to build up our people in knowledge and in holiness; and urging them, especially, to fidelity in family duties, to the religious care of children, and to the cultivation of peace, and of things whereby one may edify another.

6. That under a deep persuasion that the unity, order, purity, edification, and good feeling of our Societies may be greatly promoted by our Pastoral intercourse with them, and regretting that that intercourse has not been more sedulously and extensively cultivated, we resolve to give ourselves more fully to this branch of our work; and more especially that we will care for the sick and poor, and will endeavour to obtain the help of our brethren, in order to secure to our people of every class that affectionate and Christian oversight of their spiritual interests which is so desirable and beneficial.

7. That as we are fully persuaded, from our whole history and experience, that the doctrines we hold cannot be preserved and transmitted in their purity, nor the practical efficiency of Methodism in accomplishing its original design be maintained, without the most careful adherence to its whole Economy, as left to us, in all its essential features, by our venerable Founder,

and since modified only according to the urgency of new circumstances ; we deliberately resolve that we will continue to walk by the same rule, and to mind the same thing ; that we will ourselves cheerfully submit to those rules and usages which more especially concern ourselves ; and that we will conscientiously attend to the faithful administration of that godly discipline which is necessary to purify the Church, to protect the weak, and to edify the body of Christ.

Lastly. That we determine, by God's gracious assistance, to be more fervent and importunate in supplicating upon ourselves and upon our Officers, Societies, and Congregations, that rich effusion of the Holy Spirit which is always necessary to the success of the labours of Christian Ministers and Pastors, and which is peculiarly needed, at the present time, to prepare both ourselves and our people for the duties, trials, and temptations of the coming year.

III. RESOLUTIONS ON "PASTORAL VISITATION" ADOPTED IN 1847.

Q. What further measure does the Conference direct on the subject of the PASTORAL VISITATION of our Societies and Congregations ?

A. The Conference approves and adopts the following Report of the Committee appointed by the Conference of 1846, to consider and present a "General Plan for securing in every Circuit a more Regular and Systematic Visitation of our People," who met in the Centenary Hall, London, on February 9th, 1847, and following days, viz.:—

I. That this Committee recognises the absolute obligation which is laid upon all the Ministers of our Circuits to secure by mutual consultation and arrangement, such a general, stated, and efficient visitation of our people at their own dwellings, as is involved, as well in the Scriptural command to "feed the flock of God," as in those other statements of the Sacred Volume, which in varied language represent Christian Ministers as the Under-Shepherds of Christ ;—that this obligation has been solemnly confessed, both at the time when we received ordination, and also when on subsequent occasions our approval of the Minutes of 1820, in which this duty is detailed, has been acknowledged :—And that thus recognising the obligation,

this Committee suggests that the general Ministerial duties of Circuits should, in given cases, be so allotted and arranged, as that families, especially among the working classes, which cannot be collected or found during the day, may be visited in the evening.

II. That notwithstanding the obvious benefits which accrue to our Connexion generally from our peculiar system of Itinerancy, and of stated and extensive Village Ministrations, its disadvantages as affecting this part of the Pastoral care must not be overlooked. Joining this circumstance to the facts that since Methodism arose the habits of society are greatly altered, and that, even now, the disproportion between the number of Members and Pastors, comparing ours with other Churches, is exceedingly great, this Committee is agreed that it would be unreasonable to expect that personal visits of the Minister could, under existing arrangements, be made to *all the extent* that is desired;—especially when it is further considered that many of our Members, from various causes, are not individually accessible; that numbers are employed in manufactories, and can only be visited at times when the Minister is unavoidably engaged in other duties; and that, in large towns especially, our Ministers have their time much occupied by claims from public and religious Institutions, in addition to their own indispensable Ministerial duties and engagements.—On all these accounts it is incumbent upon our people themselves to render us their aid in removing difficulties out of the way and in affording facilities for the accomplishment of this object.

III. That the difficulties arising from the causes just mentioned have been greatly increased by the calls which have been made almost perpetually upon many of our Ministers for such labours as take them away from their own Circuits,—the preaching of Sunday School and Chapel Anniversary Sermons, and the like,—involving the necessity of taking long journeys, occasioning frequent absences from home, and thereby subtracting from the time which such Ministers would otherwise have at their disposal for the visitation and special oversight of their own people.

IV. That it is painfully evident to this Committee, that in consequence of the ever-multiplying cares which now devolve

upon our Pastorate, both of a spiritual and economical nature, and because of the great number of persons who stately worship with us, and yet have not joined our Societies,—who justly claim our attention, and yet are not reached by our usual Quarterly Visitation of the Classes,—no such full accomplishment of the object as the Conference desires can be realised without an *increase of Ministers*; and the Committee suggests that our Circuit Stewards and Lay Friends generally should consider the best and most prudent means of procuring and supporting such an increase in their several localities.

V. That notwithstanding all the difficulties which have been stated, this Committee is, however, convinced that by a wise economy of time, by a carefully arranged *system*, and by perseverance and energy, much *more* may be accomplished; and that in the present day the increased temporal cares and dangers of our own people, and their increased exposure to the manifold seductions of worldliness and error, make this additional zeal and energy on our part to be a matter of absolute necessity.

VI. That this Committee therefore respectfully suggests to the Conference the propriety of enjoining as follows:—

1. That the attention of the Class Leaders shall be again particularly directed to that original Rule of our Societies which requires them to give stated information to the Minister of those Members who are sick, or require to be specially visited.

2. That the conscientious and increased attention of our Ministers be directed to the Minute of the Conference in 1836, Q. xxvii., in reference to the "Occasional Visits of Preachers to other Circuits," especially to that clause which enjoins our Ministers to restrict their engagements of this nature "*within such bounds as will consist with their paramount and indispensable obligations to their own Circuits.*"

3. That every Minister be required to see that the Class Books are properly filled up and kept, especially with reference to the insertion of the names and residences of the Members; and to make such use of these books as he may deem necessary for the purpose of Pastoral Visitation.

4. That the Ministers be exhorted frequently to direct their attention to Mr. Wesley's Advices on the subject, contained in the Minutes of 1766, in which the objects to be attained by

Pastoral Visitation are distinctly set forth, and the spirit in which it ought to be conducted is admirably inculcated.

5. That in the devotional exercises connected with their Pastoral Visits the Ministers should introduce the reading of a suitable portion of the Holy Scriptures as constantly as possible.

6. That each large Circuit be divided into Sections, according to a mutual arrangement to be made by the Ministers at their Weekly Meetings; and that each Minister be held responsible for the visitation of his own Section.

7. That, in harmony with the design of these Regulations, the Quarterly Visitation of the Classes be made as impressive as possible, and used as the occasion of special admonition and instruction; and that no person shall be entered upon the Society Schedule as a "backslider" upon slight or insufficient grounds, nor without particular inquiry into the case, nor even, whenever it may be practicable, without a personal visitation on the part of one of the Ministers of the Circuit.

8. That this important department of Ministerial duty be statedly made the subject of direct and specific inquiry and conversation, both by the Superintendents of Circuits in their Weekly Meetings with their respective Colleagues, and by the Chairmen of Districts in their several District Meetings.

APPENDIX V

WESLEYAN METHODIST CHAPEL MODEL DEED.¹

Release of Freehold Ground for the purposes of a Methodist Chapel, with a Declaration of Trusts, etc., intended as a "Model Deed," to be referred to by Subsequent Conveyances.

[1.] THIS INDENTURE, made the third day of July,
Date of Indenture, 3rd in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight
July, 1832. hundred and thirty-two.

[*Here follow the names of the Parties.*]

[2.] WHEREAS in order the better to understand
Recitals to explain the the intent and meaning of these presents, it
origin and formation of the is desirable to recite briefly the origin and
the Methodist Societies. formation of the Societies of the people called Methodists;
(that is to say,)

In the year one thousand seven hundred and thirty-eight, a few persons in London agreed to meet with the Rev. John Wesley, (formerly of Lincoln College, Oxford, and afterwards of the City Road, London,) Clerk, for the purpose of religious conversation, singing, and prayer; which Society as it was called had increased by the early part of the year one thousand seven hundred and thirty-nine, to about sixty persons, and in April of the same year the said John Wesley being in Bristol, a few persons in that city also agreed to meet weekly, with the same intentions as those who met in London, under the advice and religious direction of the said John Wesley, and of his brother the Rev. Charles Wesley; similar meetings were also commenced at Kingswood and Bath; but in the year one

¹ For *Summary of the Proceedings relating to the Adoption of the Deed by the Conference*, see pp. 230, 231.

thousand seven hundred and forty, a part of the Society in London, placing themselves more immediately under the pastoral charge and ministerial direction of the said John Wesley, agreed to meet together in a building called the Foundery, in Moorfields; which he had purchased and converted into a place of Religious Worship; and the same disposition to place themselves under the pastoral charge and ministerial direction of the said John Wesley, (and his said brother Charles Wesley), appearing in the Societies before mentioned, at Bristol and other places which the said John Wesley regularly visited for the purposes of preaching the Gospel, and giving spiritual advice; a body of Rules was

Rules of the Societies. drawn up in the year one thousand seven hundred and forty-three, for the Government of the said Societies, and entitled "The nature, design, and General Rules of the United Societies, in London, Bristol, Kingswood, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, etc."; and which Rules were signed by the said John Wesley, and Charles Wesley, and became then, (and continue to be,) the Rules by which all persons united in the said Societies were (and are) required to conduct themselves; and in default of which, they were to be excluded from the said Societies: And in the manner above mentioned was instituted and established, first in London, and then in other places as aforesaid, the Religious body now generally known by the appellation of "The people called Methodists":

[3.] AND WHEREAS, in order that the pecuniary contributions made by the said Societies for religious and charitable purposes might be managed with regularity, one or more of the Members of each of the said Societies, was or were from time to time appointed to be a "Steward," or "Stewards," of the Society of which he or they were for the time being a Member or Members; and which Steward or Stewards at first managed all the temporal concerns of the said Societies, but afterwards Stewards for the Society, and Stewards for the poor of the Society; or, as they are now commonly called, "Society Stewards," and "Poor Stewards," were respectively appointed: AND that the objects of the said Societies might be better effectuated, the said John Wesley formed or divided them into small companies, called

Society Stewards and
Poor Stewards.

Classes and Class-
Leaders.

“Classes,” of about twelve persons in each Class; over each of which Classes, one of the Members of the said Societies was appointed and called the “Class-Leader”: AND WHEREAS,

^[4.] the said people called Methodists having
Appointment of Preachers by Mr Wesley. rapidly increased in number, and new Societies having been formed as aforesaid

in many and various places, the said John Wesley appointed certain persons (some of whom were Clergymen of the Established Church of England, and others of whom were ordained or set apart to the Ministry by himself and other Presbyters of the Church of England) to preach and expound God’s Holy Word unto the said Societies, and to form new Societies under his guidance and direction: AND the more effectually to promote order and good discipline among the

Formation of Circuits. Societies so formed, the said John Wesley from time to time, as occasion required, collected or associated together such of the said Societies as existed in places contiguous or of most convenient access to each other, and which collections or associations of Societies were called “Circuits”; And the said John Wesley annually appointed one or more of the said Preachers, to Itinerate or travel from place to place in each of the said Circuits, to which he or they were respectively appointed, to visit the various Societies therein, to form new Societies, and to preach, and otherwise exercise his and their office, as Ministers of the Gospel; but under the direction and guidance of him the said John Wesley: And in each of the

Assistants or Superintendents. said Circuits one of the said Preachers so appointed was directed specially to superintend the others or other of them, and to take

the chief charge and care of the Societies in the Circuit over which he was so appointed, and who was at first, and during the lifetime of the said John Wesley, called “the Assistant”; but is now generally known amongst the said people called Methodists by the appellation of “the Superintendent,” or “the Superintendent Preacher,” of the Circuit to which he is for the time being appointed; and in every Circuit there was, or were, from time to time appointed, from among the Mem-

Circuit Stewards. bers of the Societies in each respective Circuit, a Steward or Stewards, called “the Circuit Steward” or “Circuit Stewards”; whose business it

was, to take charge of and to apply to their intended purposes, the various collections of monies made to meet the expenses of such Circuit.

[5.]
Increase of Circuits. AND WHEREAS, the Circuits so formed, as aforesaid, have been from time to time increased in number, altered, changed, subdivided, or consolidated, as from time to time appeared necessary or expedient :

[6.]
Origin of "the Conference." AND WHEREAS, the said John Wesley, in or about the year one thousand seven hundred and forty-four, invited several of the Clergymen and Preachers connected with him, to meet in London, to confer upon matters relating to the doctrines, discipline, regulation, and Government of the said Societies ; and similar meetings or assemblies of the said Preachers being afterwards held annually, they obtained the appellation of "The yearly Conference of the people called Methodists" ; Minutes of which yearly Conference have, for many years past, been printed and published annually :

[7.]
Recital of Mr. Wesley's Deed Poll. AND WHEREAS, the said John Wesley duly made and published a certain Deed Poll or Instrument, in writing, under his hand and seal, bearing date on or about the twenty-eighth day of February, in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-four, attested by two credible witnesses, and enrolled in His Majesty's High Court of Chancery, on or about the ninth day of March, in the year last aforesaid ; after reciting that divers buildings, commonly called Chapels, with a messuage or dwelling-house, or other appurtenances, to each of the same belonging, situate in various parts of Great Britain, had been given and conveyed from time to time by the said John Wesley, to certain persons and their heirs in each of the said gifts and conveyances named, which were enrolled in His Majesty's High Court of Chancery, upon the acknowledgment of the said John Wesley, (pursuant to the Act of Parliament in that case made and provided,) upon trust, that the Trustees in the said several Deeds respectively named, and the survivors of them, and their heirs and assigns, and the Trustees for the

Reciting that divers Chapels, etc., had been given and conveyed to Trustees to permit Preachers appointed by the yearly Conference to preach, etc., therein.

time being, to be elected as in the said Deeds is appointed, should permit and suffer the said John Wesley, and such other person and persons as he should for that purpose, from time to time, nominate and appoint, at all times during his life, at his will and pleasure, to have and enjoy the free use and benefit of the said premises, that he, the said John Wesley, and such other person and persons as he should nominate and appoint, might therein preach and expound God's Holy Word: And upon further trust, that the said respective Trustees, and the survivors of them, and their heirs and assigns, and the Trustees for the time being, should permit and suffer Charles Wesley, brother of the said John Wesley, and such other person and persons as the said Charles Wesley should for that purpose, from time to time, nominate and appoint, in like manner, during his life, to have, use, and enjoy the said premises respectively, for the like purposes, aforesaid: And after the decease of the survivor of them, the said John Wesley and Charles Wesley, then upon further trust, that the said respective Trustees, and the survivors of them, and their heirs and assigns, and the Trustees for the time being for ever, should permit and suffer such person and persons, and for such time and times, as should be appointed at the yearly Conference of the people called Methodists, in London, Bristol, or Leeds, and no others, to have and enjoy the said premises for the purposes aforesaid:

AND RECITING, that divers persons had, in like manner, given or conveyed many Chapels, messuages, and dwelling-houses, or other appurtenances to the same belonging, situate in various parts of Great Britain, and also in Ireland, to certain Trustees, in each of the said gifts and conveyances respectively named, upon the like trusts, and for the same uses and purposes as aforesaid; (except only that in some of the said gifts and conveyances no life-estate or other interest was therein or thereby given and reserved to the said Charles Wesley):

Reciting that it was expedient to explain the words "yearly Conference," etc.

And reciting, that, for rendering effectual the trusts created by the said several gifts and conveyances, and that no doubt or litigation might arise with respect unto the same, or the interpretation and true meaning thereof, it had been thought expedient by the said John Wesley, on behalf of

himself as donor of the several Chapels, with the messuages, dwelling-houses, or appurtenances before mentioned, as of the donors of the said other Chapels, with the messuages, dwelling-houses, or appurtenances, to the same belonging, given or conveyed to the like uses and trusts, to explain the words "YEARLY CONFERENCE OF THE PEOPLE CALLED METHODISTS," contained in all the said Trust-Deeds, and to declare what persons were Members of the said Conference, and how the succession and identity thereof was to be continued :

(8.) IT IS BY THE SAID DEED POLL NOW IN
 Testatum of the said RECITAL WITNESSED, that, for accomplishing
 Deed Poll defining the the aforesaid purposes, the said John Wesley
 term "yearly Confer- did thereby declare, that the Conference of
 ence," etc. the people called Methodists, in London, Bristol, or Leeds, ever
 since there had been any yearly Conference of the said people
 called Methodists in any of the said places, had always thereto-
 fore consisted of, the Preachers and Expounders of God's Holy
 Word, commonly called Methodist Preachers, in connexion
 with, and under the care of, the said John Wesley, whom he
 had thought expedient, year after year, to summon to meet
 him in one or other of the said places of London, Bristol, or
 Leeds, to advise with them for the promotion of the Gospel of
 Christ, to appoint the said persons so summoned, and the other
 Preachers and Expounders of God's Holy Word, also in con-
 nexion with, and under the care of, the said John Wesley, not
 summoned to the said yearly Conference, to the use and enjoy-
 ment of the said Chapels and premises so given and conveyed
 upon trust for the said John Wesley, and such other person
 and persons as he should appoint during his life, as aforesaid ;
 and for the expulsion of unworthy, and admission of new,
 persons under his care and into his Connexion, to be Preachers
 and Expounders, as aforesaid ; and also of other persons upon
 trial for the like purposes ; the names of all which persons so
 summoned by the said John Wesley, the persons appointed,
 with the Chapels and premises to which they were so appointed,
 together with the duration of such appointments, and of those
 expelled or admitted into connexion, or upon trial, with all
 other matters transacted and done at the said yearly Conference,
 had, year by year, been printed and published under the title
 of " Minutes of Conference " :

AND BY THE SAID DEED POLL NOW IN

[9.]
Further Testatum nam-
ing the then yearly Con-
ference.

RECITAL IT IS FURTHER WITNESSED, that the said John Wesley did thereby avouch and further declare, that the several persons, thereafter named, (that is to say, one hundred persons therein named and described,) then being Preachers and Expounders of God's Holy Word, under the care of, and in connexion with, the said John Wesley, had been, then were, and did on the day of the date thereof, constitute the Members of the said Conference, according to the true intent and meaning of the said several gifts and conveyances wherein the words, "Conference of the people called Methodists," are mentioned and contained; And that the said several persons thereinbefore named, and their successors for ever, to be chosen as thereafter mentioned,

Rules for the said yearly
Conference.

(and as is hereinafter recited,) were, and should for ever be construed, taken, and be, the Conference of the people called Methodists: Nevertheless, upon the terms, and subject to the Regulations thereafter prescribed; that is to say,

First. That the Members of the said Conference, and their successors, for the time being for ever, should assemble once in every year, at London, Bristol, or Leeds, (except as after mentioned), for the purposes aforesaid; and the time and place of holding every subsequent Conference should be appointed at the preceding one, save that the next Conference, after the date thereof, should be holden at Leeds in Yorkshire, the last Tuesday in July then next:

[a] Time and place of
the yearly assembly.

Second. The act of the majority in number of the Conference assembled as aforesaid, should be had, taken, and be, the Act of the whole Conference to all intents, purposes, and constructions whatsoever:

[b] Act of the majority
binding.

Third. That after the Conference should be assembled, as aforesaid, they should first proceed to fill up all the vacancies occasioned by death or absence, as after mentioned:

[c] Vacancies to be filled
up.

Fourth. No Act of the Conference assembled as aforesaid, should be had, taken, or be, the Act of the Conference,

[d] Forty members, a
quorum, except in the
case mentioned.

until forty of the Members thereof were assembled, unless reduced under that number by death since the prior Conference, or absence, as after mentioned, nor until all the vacancies occasioned by death or absence, should be filled up by the election of new Members of the Conference, so as to make up the number one hundred, unless there were not a sufficient number of persons, objects of such election; and during the assembly of the Conference, there should always be forty Members present at the doing of any Act, save as aforesaid, or otherwise such Act should be void:

Fifth. The duration of the yearly assembly of the Conference, should not be less than five days, nor more than three weeks, and be concluded by the appointment of the Conference, if under twenty-one days; or otherwise, the conclusion thereof should follow of course at the end of the said twenty-one days; the whole of which said time of the assembly of the Conference, should be had, taken, considered, and be, the yearly Conference of the people called Methodists; and all Acts of the Conference, during such yearly assembly thereof, should be the Acts of the Conference, and none others.

Sixth. Immediately after all the vacancies, occasioned by death or absence, were filled up, by the election of new Members, as aforesaid, the Conference should choose a President and Secretary of their assembly, out of themselves, who should continue such until the election of another President or Secretary, in the next or other subsequent Conference; and the said President should have the privilege and power of two Members, in all Acts of the Conference, during his presidency, and such other powers, privileges, and authorities, as the Conference should, from time to time, see fit to intrust into his hands.

Seventh. Any Member of the Conference, absenting himself from the yearly assembly thereof for two years successively, without the consent or dispensation of the Conference, and being not present on the first day of the third yearly assembly thereof at the time and place appointed for the holding of the same, should cease to be a Member of the Conference, from and after

[e] Duration of the yearly assembly.

[f] A President and Secretary to be elected.

Powers of the President.

[g] Members absenting themselves without consent.

the said first day of the said third yearly assembly thereof, to all intents and purposes, as though he were naturally dead; but the Conference should and might dispense with, or consent to, the absence of any Member from any of the said yearly assemblies, for any cause which the Conference might see fit or necessary; and such Member, whose absence should be so dispensed with, or consented to, by the Conference, should not by such absence cease to be a Member thereof.

Eighth. The Conference should and might
 [h] Power to expel Members, etc. expel, and put out from being a Member thereof, or from being in connexion therewith, or from being upon trial, any person, Member of the Conference, or admitted into connexion, or upon trial, for any cause which to the Conference might seem fit and necessary; and every Member of the Conference so expelled and put out, should cease to be a Member thereof, to all intents and purposes, as though he were naturally dead: And the Conference, immediately after the expulsion of any Member thereof as aforesaid, should elect another person to be a Member of the Conference, in the stead of such Member so expelled.

Ninth. The Conference should and might
 [i] Power to admit persons. admit into connexion with them, or upon trial, any person or persons whom they should approve, to be Preachers and Expounders of God's Holy Word, under the care and direction of the Conference; the name of every such person or persons, so admitted into connexion, or upon trial, as aforesaid, with the time and degrees of the admission, being entered in the Journals or Minutes of the Conference.

Tenth. No person should be elected a
 [j] The time of probation. Member of the Conference, who had not been admitted into connexion with the Conference, as a Preacher and Expounder of God's Holy Word, as aforesaid, for twelve months.

Eleventh. The Conference should not,
 [k] What persons the Conference might appoint to the Chapels, and for what time to the same place. nor might, nominate or appoint any person to the use and enjoyment of, or to preach and expound God's Holy Word in any of the Chapels and premises so given or con-

veyed, or which might be given or conveyed upon the trusts aforesaid, who was not either a Member of the Conference, or admitted into connexion with the same, or upon trial, as aforesaid; nor appoint any person for more than three years successively, to the use and enjoyment of any Chapel and premises already given, or to be given or conveyed, upon the trusts aforesaid, except ordained Ministers of the Church of England.

[l] Power to hold the Conference at any place. *Twelfth.* That the Conference should and might appoint the place of holding the yearly assembly thereof, at any other city, town, or place, than London, Bristol, or Leeds, when it should seem expedient so to do.

[m] Provision respecting Chapels and Conference in Ireland, and elsewhere. *Thirteenth.* And, for the convenience of the Chapels and premises then already, or which might thereafter be given or conveyed upon the trusts aforesaid, situate in Ireland, or other parts out of the kingdom of Great Britain, the Conference should and might, when, and as often as it should seem expedient, but not otherwise, appoint and delegate any Member or Members of the Conference, with all or any of the powers, privileges, and advantages, thereinbefore contained or vested in the Conference; and all and every the acts, admissions, expulsions, and appointments whatsoever, of such Member or Members of the Conference, so appointed and delegated as aforesaid, the same being put into writing, and signed by such delegate or delegates, and entered in the Journals or Minutes of the Conference, and subscribed, as after mentioned, should be deemed, taken, and be, the acts, admissions, expulsions, and appointments, of the Conference, to all intents, constructions, and purposes, whatsoever, from the respective times when the same should be done by such delegate or delegates; notwithstanding anything therein contained to the contrary.

[n] Resolutions, etc., to be entered in the Journals and signed. *Fourteenth.* All resolutions and orders touching elections, admissions, expulsions, consents, dispensations, delegations, or appointments, and acts whatsoever, of the Conference, should be entered and written in the Journals or Minutes of the Conference, which should be kept for that purpose, publicly read, and then subscribed by the President and Secretary

thereof for the time being, during the time such Conference should be assembled; and, when so entered and subscribed, should be had, taken, received, and be, the acts of the Conference, and such entry and subscription as aforesaid, should be had, taken, received, and be, evidence of all and every such acts of the said Conference, and of their said delegates, without the aid of any other proof; and whatever should not be so entered and subscribed as aforesaid, should not be had, taken, received, or be, the act of the Conference; and the said President and Secretary were thereby required and obliged to enter and subscribe as aforesaid, every act whatever of the Conference.

Lastly. Whenever the said Conference should be reduced under the number of forty members, and continue so reduced for three yearly assemblies thereof successively; or, whenever the members thereof should decline or neglect to meet together annually for the purposes aforesaid, during the space of three years; that then, and in either of the said events, the Conference of the people called Methodists should be extinguished, and all the aforesaid powers, privileges, and advantages, should cease; and the said Chapels and premises, and all other Chapels and premises which then were, or thereafter might be, settled, given, or conveyed, upon trusts aforesaid, should vest in the Trustees for the time being of the said Chapels and premises respectively, and their successors for ever, upon trust that they, and the survivors of them, and the Trustees for the time being, did, should, and might, appoint such person and persons to preach and expound God's Holy Word therein, and to have the use and enjoyment thereof, for such time and in such manner as to them should seem proper.

AND WHEREAS, the said Charles Wesley departed this life in the life-time of the said John Wesley, and the said John Wesley departed this life in the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety-one:

AND WHEREAS, in or about the said year one thousand seven hundred and ninety-one, the said Conference, for the better maintenance of the Economy of the said people called Methodists,

[a] Provision respecting the extinction of the Conference, and appropriation of the Chapels, etc., in that case.

[10.]
Recital of the deaths of Charles Wesley and John Wesley.

[11.]
Of the formation of Districts.

united into "Districts," the Circuits which had been formed by the said John Wesley, in the kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland; of which Districts, nineteen were formed in England, two in Scotland, and six in Ireland; and each of which Districts consisted of several adjoining Circuits; and the said Conference have since, from time to time, increased the said Districts in number, and subdivided, or otherwise altered the

same, as they deemed necessary or expedient:

Chairman of the District.

And in order that the business and affairs of the said Districts might be properly and

regularly conducted, the said Conference have annually appointed for each respective District one of the Preachers

District Committee or Meeting.

stationed for the time being in a Circuit within such District, to be "The Chairman of the District"; and a Meeting of the

Preachers within each respective District is called, and generally known among the said people called Methodists, by the name of "the District Committee," or "the District Meeting":

[12.]

Recital of Contract for purchase.

AND WHEREAS, the said parties hereto of the first part, and Joseph Walker, since deceased, having been possessed of certain

sums of money, intended to be laid out in the purchase of a piece of ground and hereditaments, and in erecting and building thereon a Chapel, or place of Religious Worship, with such appurtenances as might be thought proper, for the use of the said people called Methodists, to be settled to the use, upon the trusts, and in manner hereinafter declared, and contained, or referred to of and concerning the same, in pursuance of the said intention, contracted and agreed with John Swallow, and Thomas Sladen, hereinafter mentioned, for the absolute purchase of the ground and hereditaments hereinafter particularly described, for the price or sum of eight hundred pounds.

[13.]

Recital of Conveyance in pursuance of the said Contract.

AND WHEREAS, by Indentures of Lease, and of Release and Appointment, (attested by two credible witnesses, and duly enrolled

in His Majesty's High Court of Chancery within six calendar months from the making thereof,) the Lease, bearing date the day next before the day of the date of the Release and Appointment; and the Release and Appointment bearing date on or about the twenty-fifth day of November,

one thousand eight hundred and thirty ; and made, or expressed to be made between William Nicholson, (therein described,) of the first part, John Swallow, (therein described,) of the second part, Thomas Sladen, (therein described,) of the third part, John Sutcliffe, Benjamin Garside, Francis Farnell, Joseph Walker, Robert Turner, and James Murgatroyd, (therein respectively described,) of the fourth part ; and the said parties hereto of the first part, and the said Joseph Walker, of the fifth part, in consideration of the said sum of eight hundred pounds, paid in manner therein mentioned, as and for the full and *bonâ fide* value of, and in full, for the purchase of the said ground and hereditaments hereinafter described ; the same ground and hereditaments, with their and every of their appurtenances, were conveyed and assured in possession, immediately from the making of the same Indenture of Release and Appointment, and without any power of revocation, reservation, trust, condition, limitation, clause, or agreement whatsoever, for the benefit of the Grantors, or either of them, in the said Indenture named, or of any person, or persons, claiming under them, or either of them, unto and to the use of the said parties hereto of the first part, and the said Joseph Walker, their heirs and assigns for ever, in order that the said ground and hereditaments might be further conveyed and assured by the said parties hereto of the first part, and the said Joseph Walker, or the survivors of them ; to the use, upon the trusts, and in manner, hereinafter expressed, declared and contained or referred to, of and concerning the same :

Testatum. ^[14.] NOW THIS INDENTURE WITNESSETH, that in further pursuance of the said intention and purpose, and in consideration of the sum of ten shillings of lawful English money, by the said James Brown, to the said parties hereto of the first part, in hand paid at or before the sealing and delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, they the said parties hereto of the first part (with the approbation of the said George Marsden, President for the time being of the yearly Conference of the said people called Methodists, testified by his being a party to and executing these presents), HAVE, and each and every of them HATH, granted, bargained,

sold, aliened, released, and confirmed, and by these presents do, and each and every of them both, grant, bargain, sell, alien, release, and confirm, unto the said James Brown, (in his actual possession, now being by virtue of a bargain and sale to him thereof, made by the said parties hereto of the first part,) in consideration of five shillings, by Indenture, bearing date the day next before the day of the date of these presents, for the term of one whole year, commencing from the day next before the date of the same Indenture of Bargain and Sale; and by force of the statute made for transferring uses into possession, and his heirs and assigns; All that piece or parcel

of ground, formerly part of a close of ground
Parcels. called the Dye-house Bank, heretofore in the occupation of one Nathaniel Wainhouse; and also parcel of the Lands and Ground belonging to a Messuage called Mearclough Bottom, situate in Skircoat aforesaid, and formerly the Estate and Inheritance of Edward Wainhouse, of Skircoat aforesaid, Gentleman, deceased; which said piece or parcel of ground, intended to be hereby released and assured, is bounded on or towards the North by the Halifax and Rochdale Turnpike Road, on or towards the South by the Calder and Hebble Canal, on or towards the East in part by a parcel of Land secondly in the said Indenture of Release and Appointment particularly mentioned, and in other parts by Lands and Hereditaments belonging to the Company or Proprietors of the said Calder and Hebble Navigation, and on or towards the West wholly by other Lands and Hereditaments of the said Company, and measures, (as nearly as the shape of the Land will permit the same to be ascertained,) in length from East to West, on the North side thereof, two hundred and fourteen feet and six inches, and on the South side thereof, two hundred and three feet four inches, and in breadth from North to South, at the East end thereof, one hundred and thirty-seven feet five inches, and at the West end one hundred and forty-four feet six inches, and contains in the whole, by admeasurement, three thousand two hundred and twenty-five superficial square yards, or thereabouts, be the same more or less, and the said parcel of Land includes a slip of land towards the North side thereof, which formerly comprised part of the old Turnpike Road from Halifax to Rochdale; Together with

General words.

all and singular houses, out-houses, edifices, buildings, barns, yards, gardens, trees, woods, underwoods, mounds, mines, delfs, quarries, fences, hedges, ditches, sewers, drains, paths, passages, ways, waters, water-courses, lights, liberties, privileges, easements, profits, commodities, emoluments, and appurtenances whatsoever, to the said piece or parcel of ground, messuage, or tenement, and hereditaments hereby granted and released, or intended so to be, belonging, or in anywise appertaining, or with the same or any part thereof respectively, now, or at any time heretofore, held, used, occupied or enjoyed, or intended so to be, or accepted, reputed, deemed, taken, or known, as part, parcel, or member thereof, or of any part thereof, with their, and every of their appurtenances, and the reversion and reversions, remainder and remainders, yearly and other rents, issues, and profits thereof; and all the estate, right, title, interest, inheritance, use, trust, property, profits, possession, claim, and demand whatsoever, both at law and in equity of them the said parties hereto of the first part in, to, out of, and upon, the same premises, and in, to, and out of, every part and parcel thereof, with their, and every of their appurtenances: To HAVE AND TO

[15.]
Habendum.

HOLD the said piece or parcel of ground, messuage, or tenement, hereditaments, and all and singular other the premises by these presents granted and released, or otherwise assured, or intended so to be, with their, and every of their appurtenances, in possession, immediately from the making thereof, and without any power of revocation, reservation, trust, condition, limitation, clause, or agreement whatsoever, for the benefit of the said parties hereto of the first part, or of any person or persons claiming under them, or any of them, unto the said James Brown, and his heirs, TO THE USE of the said parties hereto of the first part, their heirs and assigns for ever; but upon the trusts, and to and for the intents and purposes, and with, under, and subject to, the powers, provisoes, declarations, and agreements, in these presents expressed, declared, and contained, or referred to, of and concerning the same, (that is to say,)

[16.]
Upon trusts following,
viz., to build Chapel with
appurtenances.

UPON TRUST, that they the said parties hereto of the first part, and the survivors and survivor of them, and the heirs and

assigns of such survivor, or the Trustees, or Trustee, for the time being, acting in the trusts of these presents, shall and do, with and out of the monies now or which may hereafter be possessed by them or him for that purpose, and as soon after the execution of these presents as conveniently may be, erect and build upon the said piece or parcel of ground, or upon some part thereof, and from time to time, and at all times hereafter, whenever it shall be necessary for the due accomplishment of the trusts of these presents, or of any of them, repair, alter, enlarge, and rebuild, a Chapel or place of Religious Worship, and a dwelling-house, or dwelling-houses, vestry-room, or vestry-rooms, school-room, or school-rooms, and other offices, conveniences, and appurtenances, or with or without any of them respectively as, and in such manner as, the Trustees for the time being of these presents shall, from time to time, deem necessary or expedient :

[17.]
To permit Preachers appointed by the Conference, (and such other persons as are designated,) to preach, etc., therein.

AND UPON FURTHER TRUST, from time to time, and at all times after the erection thereof, to permit and suffer the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship, with the appurtenances, to be used, occupied and enjoyed, as and for a place of Religious Worship, by a congregation of Protestants, of the said people called Methodists, in the Connexion established by the said late John Wesley as aforesaid, and for public and other meetings and services, held according to the general rules and usage of the said people called Methodists ; and do and shall from time to time and all times hereafter, permit and suffer such person and persons as are hereinafter mentioned or designated, and such person and persons only, to preach and expound God's Holy Word, and to perform the usual rites of Religious Worship therein ; that is to say, such person or persons as shall be from time to time approved, and for that purpose duly appointed, by the said Conference of the said people called Methodists, from time to time held under the orders and regulations of the said in part recited Deed Poll ; and also such other person and persons as shall be thereunto from time to time duly permitted or appointed, (according to the general rules and usage of the said people called Methodists,) by the Superintendent Preacher for the time being, of the Circuit in which the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship,

shall for the time being be situated ; and also such other person and persons as shall be thereunto from time to time duly appointed, by any authority lawfully constituted by the said Conference, or under or by virtue of these presents, to fill up any vacancy or vacancies, at any time occasioned by the death, removal, or suspension, of a Preacher or Preachers, in or during any interval between the sittings of the said Conference ; but only until the then next Conference, and in no case any other person or persons whomsoever :

[18.]
Times and manner of
the services. Who shall
conduct the same.

AND it is hereby declared, that the Times and Manner of the various services and ordinances of Religious Worship, to be observed and performed in the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship, shall be regulated according to the general rules and usage of the said people called Methodists ; and that the officiating Preacher for the time being, whether appointed by the said Conference, or permitted or appointed by the said Superintendent Preacher for the time being, or otherwise permitted or appointed as in these presents is mentioned, shall have the direction and conducting of the same worship, in conformity nevertheless to the said general rules and usage of the said people called Methodists :

[19.]
Proviso respecting
Preachers immoral,
erroneous in Doctrine,
or deficient in ability.

PROVIDED ALWAYS, and it is hereby declared that, if at any time or times hereafter, the Trustees for the time being of these presents or a majority of them ; or if the Stewards and Leaders of Classes for the time being of the Society of the said people called Methodists, assembling at or belonging to the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship, or a majority of them, shall believe that any Preacher appointed at any time by the said Conference as aforesaid, is either immoral, erroneous in Doctrine, or deficient in ability, (unless the question of such immorality, erroneousness in Doctrine, or deficiency in ability, shall have been previously inquired into and disposed of, by the Preachers for the time appointed by the said Conference, to the Circuits of the District in which the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship shall for the time being be situated, to the satisfaction of a majority of the said Trustees for the time being, and also to the satisfaction of a majority of the said Society Stewards

and Leaders of Classes, for the time being, as aforesaid,) then, and in every such case, it shall be lawful for the said Trustees for the time being, or a majority of them, or for the said Society Stewards and Leaders of Classes for the time being, or a majority of them, to summon the Preachers of the District in which the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship shall for the time being be situated, and also all the Trustees, Stewards, and Leaders of the Circuit, in which the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship shall for the time being be situated, to meet in the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship, on a day and hour to be appointed for that purpose, (and of which, notice in writing shall, at least fourteen days previously, be personally served upon the said Preachers, Trustees, Stewards, and Leaders, or left for, or sent by the post to, him and them respectively, at his and their most usual place or places of abode, or business,) and the Chairman of the District shall be President of the assembly, and every Preacher, Trustee, Steward, and Leader shall have a single vote, and in case of an equality of votes, the Chairman shall possess the casting voice; and if the majority of the meeting adjudge, that the accused Preacher is immoral, erroneous in Doctrine, or deficient in abilities, he shall be considered as removed from the Circuit in which the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship shall for the time being be situated; and the District Committee, (or District Meeting, as the same Committee is now generally called,) shall, as soon as possible thereafter, appoint another Preacher for that Circuit, to continue till the ensuing Conference, instead of the Preacher so removed, and shall determine among themselves how the removed Preacher shall be disposed of, till the ensuing Conference, and shall have authority to suspend the said Preacher from all public duties, till the ensuing Conference, if they judge proper; and if any such Preacher shall refuse to submit to the above mode of trial, in any of the cases above mentioned, he shall be considered as suspended till the ensuing Conference, and the District Committee, (or District Meeting, as the same Committee is now generally called,) shall also supply, as well as possible, the place of the removed or suspended Preacher, till another Preacher be appointed; and the Preacher thus appointed, and all other Preachers, shall be subject to the above mode of trial; and if

the District Committee, (or District Meeting, as the same Committee is now generally called,) do not appoint a Preacher for that Circuit, instead of the removed or suspended Preacher, within one calendar month after the said removal or suspension, or do not fill up the place of the removed or suspended Preacher, till another Preacher be appointed, the majority of the said Meeting of the said Trustees, Stewards, and Leaders, being again regularly summoned as aforesaid, shall appoint a Preacher for the said Circuit, provided he be a Member of the Methodist Connexion, (that is to say, one of the said people called Methodists,) till the ensuing Conference.

[20.]
 Proviso respecting Doctrines. PROVIDED ALWAYS, that no person or persons whomsoever, shall at any time hereafter, be permitted to preach or expound God's Holy Word, or to perform any of the usual acts of Religious Worship, upon the said piece of ground and hereditaments, nor in the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship and premises, or any of them, or any part or parts thereof, nor in or upon the appurtenances thereto belonging, or any of them, or any part or parts thereof, who shall maintain, promulgate, or teach, any Doctrine, or Practice, contrary to what is contained in certain Notes on the New Testament, commonly reputed to be the Notes of the said John Wesley, and in the first four volumes of Sermons commonly reputed to be written and published by him.

[21.]
 School-room. AND UPON FURTHER TRUST, in case a School-room or School-rooms shall be erected or provided upon the said piece of ground or any part thereof, as aforesaid, or if there shall be no separate School-room or School-rooms, and it shall by the Trustees for the time being of these presents, or the major part of them, be thought necessary or expedient, to hold and teach, a Sunday or other School or Schools, in any proper part of the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship, then, to permit and suffer a Sunday or other School or Schools, to be held, conducted, and carried on from time to time, in the said School-room or School-rooms, or if it shall be thought necessary or expedient as aforesaid, in the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship, as aforesaid, but if in the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship, then only at such hours and times, as shall not

interfere with the public worship of Almighty God therein ; and in all cases, whether in the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship or not, under such government, orders, and regulations, as the said Conference have directed or appointed, or shall hereafter from time to time direct or appoint ; and also subject always to the proviso hereinbefore contained respecting Doctrines :

[22.]
Power to demolish build-
ings to enlarge the
Chapel, etc.

PROVIDED ALWAYS, that it shall be lawful for the Trustees for the time being of these presents, or the major part of them, when and so often as they shall deem the same necessary or expedient, to take down and remove the said Chapel, vestry-room, or vestry-rooms, school-room, or school-rooms, dwelling-house, or dwelling-houses, offices, conveniences, or appurtenances to the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship and premises belonging or appertaining, or all or any of them, or any part or parts thereof respectively, for the purpose of rebuilding the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship, or for the purpose of building, or rebuilding, any other vestry-room, or vestry-rooms, school-room, or school-rooms, dwelling-house, or dwelling-houses, offices, conveniences, and appurtenances, or enlarging or altering the same respectively, or all or any of them, so as to render the premises the better adapted to, and for, the due accomplishment of the trusts, intents, and purposes of these presents :

[23.]
Power to Mortgage.

AND it is hereby declared, that, from time to time, and at all times hereafter, it shall and may be lawful to and for the Trustees for the time being of these presents, or the major part of them, to mortgage, and for that purpose to appoint, convey, and assure, in fee, or for any term or terms of years, the said piece of ground, Chapel or place of Religious Worship, hereditaments and premises, or any part or parts thereof, respectively, to any person or persons whomsoever, for securing such sum or sums of money as may be requisite or necessary, in, or for, the due execution and accomplishment of the trusts and purposes of these presents, or any of them, according to the true intent and meaning thereof ; Nevertheless it is hereby declared that no mortgage or mortgages, nor any disposition whatsoever by way

Mortgages to be for the
whole debt or debts.

of mortgage, shall at any time hereafter be made, of the said trust-premises, or of any part or parts thereof, under or by virtue of these presents, unless such mortgage, or mortgages, shall in the aggregate amount to, and cover, the whole debt, or the aggregate amount of the whole of the debts, which at the time of the execution of such mortgage, or mortgages, shall be due and owing, either legally, or equitably, in respect, or on account of, or in relation to, the said trust-premises, or some part or parts thereof, respectively, or from the said Trustees for the time being, or any of them, for, or on account or in respect of, the said trust-premises, or some part or parts thereof, respectively, excepting only such debt and debts as may then be accruing due for or on account of the ordinary current expenses of the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship and premises; But it is hereby declared, that it

Mortgagees not bound to inquire into the necessity, etc., of the Mortgage.

shall not be incumbent upon any mortgagee, or mortgagees, or upon any intended mortgagee, or mortgagees, of the said trust-premises, or any part or parts thereof, to inquire into the necessity, expediency, or propriety of any mortgage, or mortgages, which shall be made, or be proposed to be made, under or by virtue of these presents, or whether the same is, or are, made, or intended to be made, for the whole amount of the debt, or of the aggregate amount of the debts, which shall be

Mortgage not to prevent Trustees from altering, etc., the trust-premises, except in the cases mentioned.

so due and owing as aforesaid; nor shall anything in these presents contained, or which may be contained in any such mortgage, or mortgages, extend, or be construed to extend, unless where the contrary shall, with the full

knowledge and consent of the said Trustees for the time being, or the major part of them, be therein actually expressed, to hinder, prevent, or make unlawful, the taking down, removing, enlarging, or altering the said buildings and premises, or any of them, respectively, as is in these presents before mentioned and provided for, in that behalf, nor in any manner to hinder, prevent, or interfere with, the due execution of the Trusts or purposes of these presents, or any of them, so long as such mortgagee, or mortgagees, his, her, and their, heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, shall not be in the actual possession, as such mortgagee, or mortgagees, of the hereditaments com-

prised, or to be comprised, in such mortgage, or mortgages ; anything in these presents contained to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding.

[24.]

Trusts to let Pews, Houses, School-rooms, etc. To sell Graves and Tombs.

AND UPON FURTHER TRUST, from time to time, and at all times hereafter, to Let the pews and seats in the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship, at a reasonable rent, or reasonable rents, (reserving as many free seats for the poor, where, and as may be thought, necessary or expedient,) and, if there shall be any such dwelling-house, or dwelling-houses, school-room, or school-rooms, or any of them, erected and built as aforesaid, then to let the same, or any of them, at a reasonable rent, or reasonable rents ; and also, if there shall be a cemetery or burial ground, to let graves and tombs at a reasonable rent, or reasonable rents, or to sell graves and tombs at a reasonable price, or reasonable prices, and to collect, get in, and receive,

To receive Rent, etc.

the rents, profits, and income, to arise in any manner from the said premises, (excepting monies which shall from time to time arise from collections or subscriptions duly made therein, according to the general rules of the said people called Methodists, for other purposes than for the immediate purposes of the said trust-estate,) as and when the same shall, from time to time, become due and payable, but not, (excepting as to monies from time to time received for graves and tombs,) by way of anticipation, further than for the quarter, or half-year, or year, (as may be thought most expedient,) immediately following the quarter day, that is to say, the twenty-fifth day of March, the twenty-fourth day of June, the twenty-ninth day of September, and the twenty-fifth day of December, respectively, as the case may be, next after the receipt thereof :

[25.]

Appropriation of Rents and Profits.

AND it is hereby declared, that the Trustees and Trustee for the time being of these presents shall stand and be possessed of the money arising from the said rents, profits, and income, (except as aforesaid,) UPON TRUST, thereout to pay, in the first place, such duties, taxes, rates, and other outgoings, (if any,) as from time to time shall be lawfully payable, in respect of the said premises, or any part or parts

Insurance.

thereof; and also the costs, charges, and expenses of insuring, and keeping insured, the said trust-premises, against loss or damage by fire, in such sum or sums as the said Trustees for the time being, or the major part of them, shall from time to time think proper or expedient, and in repairing and keeping the said trust-premises in good repair and condition; and likewise, the interest of all principal monies borrowed, and then due and owing on security of the said trust-premises, or of any part or parts thereof, by virtue of these presents; and then, to retain to, and reimburse themselves, respectively, all costs, charges, and expenses, lawfully incurred and paid by them, in or about the due execution of the trusts of these presents, or any of them; and in the next place, thereout to pay and discharge, the necessary costs, charges, and expenses, from time to time incurred, in cleansing, lighting, and attending to the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship, and premises; and generally, to liquidate any debts, costs, charges, incumbrances, and expenses, at any time lawfully incurred under, or occasioned by, the due execution of the trusts of these presents, or any of them, and not included in any of the provisions aforesaid:

[26.]

Appropriation of surplus money.

AND UPON FURTHER TRUST, from time to time to pay and apply any surplus money, remaining after the due payment of all such lawful debts, costs, charges, incumbrances, and expenses as aforesaid, (but according, and in conformity to, the general rules and usage of the said people called Methodists,) for, or towards, the support of the Preacher, or Preachers, for the time being respectively appointed by the said Conference, or otherwise as aforesaid, either in the Circuit in which the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship shall for the time being be situated, or in that and some other Circuit or Circuits, or in some other Circuit or Circuits only; or, for or towards the purpose of assisting, or increasing, the funds of any other Chapel or place of Religious Worship, or Chapels or places of Religious Worship, appropriated to the use of the said people called Methodists, or in building any new Chapel or place of Religious Worship, or Chapels or places of Religious Worship, for the use of the said people called Methodists, and which

shall be settled, upon such or similar trusts, ends, intents, and purposes, as are in these presents mentioned; or in subscribing, or giving, to any of the general funds, objects, or charities, of the said people called Methodists; or for or towards all or any of the purposes, objects, funds, or charities, hereinbefore mentioned, in such manner as the Trustees for the time being of these presents, or the major part of them, shall from time to time think necessary or expedient:

[27.]
Power for the Trustees
to subscribe, etc., to
the Funds of the Con-
nexion, etc.

AND it is hereby declared, that it shall be lawful for the Trustees for the time being of these presents, or the major part of them (although there shall not then be any such surplus money as aforesaid,) from time to time, to Subscribe or Give such sum and sums of money as they shall think necessary or expedient, and may be conveniently spared, from the funds of the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship, for or towards all or any of the purposes, objects, funds, or charities aforesaid:

[28.]
Power to appoint
Chapel Stewards and
Treasurer.

AND it is hereby declared, that it shall be lawful for the Trustees for the time being of these presents, or the major part of them, at any meeting to be convened and held as is hereinafter mentioned, from time to time, and at all times hereafter, at their discretion, to appoint any person, or persons, of decent and sober conduct and good reputation, to be a Steward, or Stewards, of the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship, and at their will and pleasure to remove and to dismiss such Steward, or Stewards, or any of them; and the duty of the Steward, and Stewards, of the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship, shall be, to see and attend to the orderly conducting of the secular business and affairs of the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship, under the direction and superintendence of the Trustees for the time being of these presents, or the major part of them; and also in like manner to appoint any proper person, or persons, to be a Treasurer, or Treasurers, of the funds of the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship and premises, and at their will and pleasure to remove and to dismiss such Treasurer, or Treasurers, or any of them:

AND it is hereby declared, that the Trustees and Trustee for the time being of these presents, shall, themselves, or by their Steward or Stewards, Treasurer or Treasurers, keep a Book, or Books, of Accounts, in which from time to time shall be plainly, legibly, and regularly entered, an account of every receipt and disbursement, by them, him, or any of them, received, or made, and also of all debts and credits, due to, and owing from or in respect of, the said trust-premises, or any part or parts thereof, and also of all other documents, articles, matters, and things, necessary for the due and full explanation and understanding of the same Book and Books of Accounts; and shall also, in like manner, keep a Book or Books of Minutes, in which from time to time shall be plainly, legibly, and regularly entered, Minutes of all Trustee meetings from time to time held under or by virtue of these presents, and of the resolutions passed, and of all proceedings, acts, and business had, taken, and done thereat, and also of all documents, articles, matters, and things necessary for the due and full explanation and understanding of the same Minutes, and all other things done in and about the execution of the trusts of these presents; AND shall and will, from time to time, and at all seasonable times hereafter, upon the request of the Superintendent Preacher for the time being, of the Circuit in which the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship shall for the time being be situated, produce and show forth, to him, and to every person whom he shall desire to see the same, all and every such Book and Books of Accounts and Minutes, documents, articles, matters, and things, and permit and suffer copies, or abstracts of, or extracts from them, or any of them, to be made and taken, by the said Superintendent Preacher, or by any person or persons whom he shall from time to time desire to make and take the same:

Accounts to be audited yearly. Notice of meeting for Audit.

AND the said Book and Books of Accounts and Minutes, and all documents, articles, matters, and things relating in anywise to the said trust-premises, shall, at least once in the year, and oftener if the said Superintendent shall at any time desire, and shall give notice thereof, in manner hereinafter mentioned, be

regularly, upon a day to be appointed by the said Superintendent for the time being, or with his concurrence, Examined and Audited, by the Superintendent, and the Circuit Steward, or Circuit Stewards, if more than one, for the time being, of the Circuit in which the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship shall for the time being be situated, at a meeting convened for that purpose; And of every such meeting, Fourteen days' Notice in writing, specifying the time, place, and purpose of such meeting, shall and may be given under the direction of the said Superintendent for the time being, by any one or more of them, the said Trustees and Trustee for the time being, to each and every the other and others of them the said Trustees and Trustee, Circuit Stewards and Circuit Steward for the time being, and either personally served upon him and them respectively, or left for, or sent by the Post to, him and them at his and their most usual place and places of abode or business.

AND in order to facilitate the Auditing of the said Accounts, Minutes, Documents, articles, matters, and things, it shall be lawful for the said Superintendent, Circuit Steward and Circuit Stewards, for the time being as aforesaid, or either or any of them, to appoint in writing a Deputy, or Deputies, to act therein for them and him respectively as aforesaid, and for that purpose, any one or more of them may be the Deputy, or Deputies, of the other or others of them, the said Superintendent, Circuit Steward and Circuit Stewards; And it is hereby declared, that the Signatures of all of them, the said Auditors, Deputies, and Deputy, or of the aggregate majority of them, written in the said Book or Books of Accounts and Minutes respectively, shall be sufficient evidence that all the matters and things relating to the said trust-premises which were up to that time included in the said Books, Accounts, Minutes, and documents, matters and things, were duly examined, audited, and approved of, unless and except so far as the contrary shall be therein, by them or by the aggregate majority of them, in writing expressed:

Auditors may appoint Deputies. of the said Accounts, Minutes, Documents, articles, matters, and things, it shall be lawful for the said Superintendent, Circuit Steward and Circuit Stewards, for the time being as aforesaid, or either or any of them, to appoint in writing a Deputy, or Deputies, to act therein for them and him respectively as aforesaid, and for that purpose, any one or more of them may be the Deputy, or Deputies, of the other or others of them, the said Superintendent, Circuit Steward and Circuit Stewards; And it is hereby declared, that the Signatures of all of them, the said Auditors, Deputies, and Deputy, or of the aggregate majority of them, written in the said Book or Books of Accounts and Minutes respectively, shall be sufficient evidence that all the matters and things relating to the said trust-premises which were up to that time included in the said Books, Accounts, Minutes, and documents, matters and things, were duly examined, audited, and approved of, unless and except so far as the contrary shall be therein, by them or by the aggregate majority of them, in writing expressed:

Auditors to sign the Accounts. of them, the said Auditors, Deputies, and Deputy, or of the aggregate majority of them, written in the said Book or Books of Accounts and Minutes respectively, shall be sufficient evidence that all the matters and things relating to the said trust-premises which were up to that time included in the said Books, Accounts, Minutes, and documents, matters and things, were duly examined, audited, and approved of, unless and except so far as the contrary shall be therein, by them or by the aggregate majority of them, in writing expressed:

AND it is hereby declared, that every Meeting, for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety of making any alteration of, or any addition to, or Mortgage

[30.]
Trustee Meetings for special business, notice of.

or sale of, the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship and premises, or any part or parts thereof, or for contracting any debt upon, for, or on account thereof, (other than for the ordinary current expenses thereof,) or for letting any such house or houses, school-room or school-rooms, as aforesaid, or for fixing the rents or prices, or making or altering rules to ascertain the rents or prices, of such graves, tombs, pews, and seats as aforesaid, or for appropriating the funds or any part of the funds of said Chapel or place of Religious Worship, (otherwise than for the due payment of the ordinary current expenses thereof,) or for bringing or defending any action or actions, suit or suits, respecting the said trust-estates and premises, or any parts thereof, or any matter relating thereto, or for any one or more of the above purposes, shall be, and shall be deemed and taken to be, a Special Meeting ; and of every such Meeting, Fourteen days' Notice in writing, specifying the time, place, and purpose or purposes of such meeting, and signed by at least either two of the Trustees for the time being of these presents, or by the Superintendent Preacher for the time being, shall be given to the other or others of them and him, the said Trustees and Superintendent Preacher, (unless where he himself is the person giving such notice,) and either personally served upon him and them, or left for, or sent by the Post to, him and them, respectively, at his and their most usual place and places of abode or business.

Trustee Meetings for ordinary business, and in cases of urgent necessity, notice of.

AND, for the purpose of transacting the Ordinary Business relating to the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship and premises, or for any other purpose relating to these presents or the trusts thereof, (except where fourteen days' notice is expressed or required as hereinbefore is mentioned,) a meeting of the Trustees for the time being of these presents, may be held, with the said Superintendent for the time being, as aforesaid, so soon as the same can be conveniently convened, by notice in writing, specifying the time and place of such meeting, given and signed by at least either two of the said Trustees for the time being, or by the said Superintendent for the time being, and either personally served upon, or left for, or sent by the Post as aforesaid to, the other and others of them respectively at his and their most usual place and places of abode or business :

[31.] Meetings valid though notice does not reach Trustees beyond seas, or who cannot be found. PROVIDED ALWAYS, and it is hereby declared, that no meeting held under or by virtue of these presents shall be invalid, or the resolutions thereof void or impeached, by reason that any such notice or notices as aforesaid, may not, or shall not, have reached any Trustee or Trustees for the time being of these presents, who, at the time of any such meeting, happens to be beyond seas, or who, or whose place or places of abode or business, shall not be known to, and cannot reasonably be found or discovered by, the person or persons who is or are respectively as aforesaid authorized to give any such notice or notices as aforesaid :

[32.] Who entitled to vote at Meetings for business, etc. AND it is hereby declared, that, at any meeting held under or by virtue of these presents, or of the trusts hereof, or any of them, the Votes of the persons present and entitled to vote, or the Votes of a majority of them, shall decide any question or matter proposed at such meeting, and respecting which such Votes shall be given; And in case the Votes shall be equally divided, then the Chairman of such meeting shall give the casting Vote, and which casting Vote he shall have, in addition to the Vote which he shall be entitled to, in his character of Trustee, Superintendent Preacher, or otherwise :

Vote of the Majority binding.

Casting Vote.

[33.] Who shall judge of what is "necessary or expedient." AND it is hereby declared, that, whenever it shall be thought necessary, or expedient, to do anything in and by these presents directed, authorized, or made lawful to be done, the necessity, or expediency, of doing the same, shall in like manner be decided by the persons present and entitled to vote upon the question to be determined, or by the majority of them, and if there shall be an even division, then by such casting Vote as aforesaid; and all acts and deeds, done and executed in pursuance of any such decision as aforesaid, at any such meeting as aforesaid, shall be good, valid, and binding on all persons entitled to vote at the meeting, who may be absent, or, being present, may be in the minority, and on all other persons claiming under or in pursuance of these presents; but no person (unless where the contrary is hereinbefore expressly

mentioned) shall be allowed to vote in more than one capacity, at the same time, or on the same question, although holding more than one office at the same time, in the Society of the said people called Methodists, or in the same meeting :

[34.] AND it is hereby declared, that the
General Rules and Usage. "General Rules and Usage of the said people called Methodists," in these presents mentioned or referred to, are the General Rules, Usage, and Practice of the whole Body of the said people called Methodists throughout Great Britain, as the same General Rules, Usage, and Practice respectively appear, in and by the Annual Minutes of the said Conference, from time to time printed and published by them, under the authority of the said in part recited Deed Poll, but subject at all times to the Proviso respecting Doctrines in these presents contained :

[35.] PROVIDED ALWAYS, and it is hereby de-
Who shall be the Chair- clared, that, excepting where the contrary
man at Meetings. is in these presents expressly declared or provided for, the Superintendent Preacher for the time being of the Circuit in which the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship shall for the time being be situated, or his Deputy thereunto from time to time by him nominated and appointed in writing under his hand, shall be the Chairman of, and shall preside at, and shall have a Vote as such Superintendent Preacher or Deputy in, all meetings held under or by virtue of these presents ; but in case the said Superintendent Preacher for the time being or his Deputy, to be so appointed as aforesaid, shall at any time neglect to attend at any such meeting as aforesaid, or if the said Superintendent Preacher or his Deputy, appointed as aforesaid, shall attend, but shall refuse to act as the Chairman at any such meeting as aforesaid, or if the said Superintendent Preacher shall not attend at any such meeting, and shall neglect to appoint a Deputy as aforesaid, then, and in every and any of the said cases, it shall be lawful for the persons for the time being composing such meeting, and entitled to vote thereat, or for a majority of them, to elect and choose from among themselves, a Chairman to preside for the time being at any such meeting as aforesaid, and every meeting so held upon any such neglect or refusal of the said Superintendent Preacher, or his Deputy as aforesaid, shall be as valid

and effectual as if the said Superintendent or his Deputy as aforesaid had been the Chairman thereof, and had presided thereat :

[36.] PROVIDED ALWAYS, and it is hereby declared, that it shall and may be lawful to and for the Trustees for the time being of these presents, with the consent of the said Conference, such consent to be testified in writing under the hand of the President for the time being of the said Conference, at any time or times hereafter, absolutely to sell and dispose of the said piece of ground, Chapel or place of Religious Worship, hereditaments, and premises, or of such part or parts of the same, respecting which such consent in writing as aforesaid shall be given, either by public sale or private contract, and together, or in parcels, and either at one and the same time, or at different times, for the best price or prices, in money, that can be reasonably obtained for the same, and well and effectually to convey and assure the hereditaments and premises so sold, to the purchaser or purchasers thereof, his, her, or their heirs and assigns, or as he, she, or they shall direct or appoint ; and the hereditaments and premises so sold and conveyed, and assured as aforesaid, shall thenceforth be held and enjoyed by the purchaser or purchasers thereof, his, her, and their heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, freed and absolutely discharged from these presents, and from the trusts hereby declared, and every of them ; And the

Appropriation of the purchase-money.

Trustees and Trustee for the time being, acting in the trusts of these presents, shall apply the money which shall arise from every such sale as aforesaid, so far as the same money will extend, to the discharge of all the incumbrances, liabilities, and responsibilities, whether personal or otherwise, lawfully contracted or occasioned by virtue of these presents, or in the due execution of the trusts thereof, or of any of them ; and subject thereto, either for or toward promoting the preaching of the Gospel amongst the said people called Methodists, in the Circuit in which the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship shall, for the time being, be situated, or for the purpose of procuring a larger or more conveniently or eligibly situated piece of ground, and Chapel or place of Religious Worship, and pre-

mises, in the place or stead of the said piece of ground, Chapel or place of Religious Worship, hereditaments, and premises so sold and disposed of, to be settled upon the same trusts, and to and for the same ends, intents, and purposes, and with, under, and subject to the same powers, provisoes, and declarations, as are in and by these presents expressed and contained, or such of them as shall be then subsisting, or capable of taking effect :

[37.]

Further power to sell
(in the case mentioned)
without consent of the
Conference.

PROVIDED ALWAYS, that, if at any time hereafter the Income arising from the said piece of ground, Chapel or place of Religious Worship, hereditaments, and premises, shall be inadequate to meet and discharge the interest of all moneys borrowed, and then due, and owing upon, or on account of, the said trust-premises, and the various current expenses attending the due execution of the trusts of these presents, and if the Trustees and Trustee for the time being of these presents shall desire to retire and be discharged from the burden and execution of the said trusts, and if no such proper persons as are hereinafter mentioned or described can be found to take upon themselves the burden and execution of the said trusts, with the responsibility and liability to be thereby incurred, then, and in that case, it shall be lawful for the Trustees for the time being as aforesaid, or the major part of them, of their own proper authority, and without any such consent by the said Conference as aforesaid, to sell and dispose of the said piece of ground, Chapel or place of Religious Worship, hereditaments, and premises, or of any part or parts of the same respectively, either by public sale or private contract, and either together or in parcels, and either at one and the same time or at different times, for the best price or prices in money that can be reasonably obtained for the same ; and well and effectually to convey and assure the hereditaments and premises so sold, with the appurtenances, to the purchaser or purchasers thereof, his, her, or their heirs and assigns, or as he, she, or they shall direct or appoint, and the hereditaments and premises so sold and conveyed, and assured as last aforesaid, shall thenceforth be held and enjoyed by the purchaser and purchasers thereof, his, her, and their heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, freed, and absolutely discharged, from these presents, and the

trusts hereby declared, and every of them ; And all the money arising from every such last-mentioned sale, Appropriation of the purchase-money. shall be applied, disposed of, and appropriated, as far as the same money will extend, to the purposes, and in the manner hereinbefore directed, with respect to any sale made in pursuance, or in consequence of, such consent, of or by the said Conference, as aforesaid ; But it is hereby declared, that no sale shall be made by virtue of this present power or authority, unless the Trustees for the time being as aforesaid, or a majority of them, shall give notice in writing to the said Conference or to the President for the time being of the said Conference, on or before the first day of the then next annual meeting of the said Conference, of their intention to make such sale, and the reasons for the same ; nor unless the said Conference shall, for the space of six calendar months next after the said first day of their said annual meeting, refuse or neglect either to give, grant, or provide the said Trustees and Trustee for the time being with such pecuniary or other aid, assistance, and relief as shall enable them and him to bear and continue the burden of the execution of the trusts of these presents, or, (as the case may be,) to find and provide other Trustees, who will take upon themselves the burden of the execution of the said Trusts :

[38.]

Receipts of Trustees to be good discharges.

AND it is hereby declared, that the Receipt and Receipts of a majority of the Trustees for the time being of these presents, shall, in all cases of payment made to them, or any of them, as such Trustees or Trustee as aforesaid, be a full discharge to the person or persons entitled to such receipt or receipts, his, her, and their heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, for all mortgage-monies, purchase-monies, or other monies, therein respectively expressed and acknowledged to have been received by any such Trustees or Trustee as aforesaid ; AND in all cases, except for money paid and received in respect of any mortgage or sale of the said hereditaments and premises, or any part or parts thereof, as aforesaid, the receipt and receipts of any one or more of the Trustees for the time being of these presents, or of any one or more of the Stewards or Treasurers for the time being, by the said Trustees for the time being, or the major part of them, duly authorised to sign

and give receipts, shall be a full discharge to the person and persons entitled to such receipt or receipts, his, her, and their heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, for all monies, (except as aforesaid,) therein respectively expressed, and acknowledged to have been received by any such Trustee, Steward, or Treasurer, as aforesaid :

[39.]

Purchasers or Mortgagees not bound to inquire into the premises, nor be answerable for the application of purchase or mortgage monies.

AND it is hereby declared, that it shall not be incumbent upon any mortgagee or mortgagees, purchaser or purchasers, of the said piece or parcel of ground, Chapel or place of Religious Worship, hereditaments, and premises, or of any part or parts thereof, respectively, to inquire into the necessity, expediency, or propriety of any mortgage, sale, or disposition of the said piece of ground, Chapel or place of Religious Worship, hereditaments, and premises, or of any part or parts thereof, made, or proposed to be made, by the said Trustees or Trustee for the time being, or the major part of them, as aforesaid, or whether any such notice or notices as aforesaid was or were duly given, or was or were valid or sufficient, or whether any Steward or Stewards, Treasurer or Treasurers, was or were duly authorised to sign and give receipts as aforesaid ; Nor shall it be incumbent upon any such mortgagee or mortgagees, purchaser or purchasers, or any of them, or for any other person or persons, his, her, or their heirs, executors, administrators, or assigns, paying money to such Trustees or Trustee, or to their Steward or Stewards, Treasurer or Treasurers for the time being, as aforesaid, to see to the application, or to be answerable or accountable for the loss, misapplication, or non-application, of such purchase or other money, or any part thereof, for which a receipt or receipts shall be so respectively given, as aforesaid :

[40.]

Trustees not chargeable nor accountable ; when.

AND it is hereby declared, that the Trustees or Trustee for the time being of these presents, shall not, nor shall any of them, their, or any of their heirs, executors, or administrators, or any of them, be chargeable or accountable for any involuntary loss suffered by him, them, or any of them, nor any one or more of them for any other or others of them, nor for more money than shall come to their respective hands, nor for injury done by others to the said trust-premises, or to any part or parts thereof :

[41.]

Trustees withdrawing, or duly excluded, from the Methodist Society for six months, shall, on being indemnified, convey the trust-estate to the other Trustees.

PROVIDED ALWAYS, and it is hereby declared, that from time to time, and at all times hereafter, in case any Trustee or Trustees for the time being of these presents shall voluntarily withdraw, or be duly excluded, from being a Member, or Members, of the said Methodist Society, and shall continue out of the said Methodist Society, for more than six calendar months then next following, then, and in every such case, upon the request in writing of the other, and others, of the said Trustee or Trustees for the time being, or a majority of them, but not otherwise, he, and they, the Trustee and Trustees so withdrawing, or excluded from being a Member or Members of the said Methodist Society, and continuing out of the said Society for the time aforesaid, shall, at the expense of the said trust fund or estate and premises, and upon receiving such indemnity as is hereinafter mentioned, well and effectually release and relinquish the trusts by these presents created and declared, and well and effectually convey and assure the said piece of ground, Chapel or place of Religious Worship, and premises, either unto, or to the use of the other and others of the Trustees for the time being of these presents, or otherwise, as shall or may be directed or appointed, under or by virtue of any power or authority hereinafter contained, for appointing new Trustees of these presents, or for increasing the number of such Trustees; and shall not, nor will, thenceforth act in, intermeddle, or in anywise interfere in or about the execution of the trusts of these presents, or any of them, but shall and will, thenceforth, permit and allow all powers and authorities, given or created in or by these presents, and all and every the act and acts, done or to be done under or by virtue thereof, to be exercised, done, and performed by the other and others of the Trustees for the time being of these presents, or a majority of them; nevertheless, it is hereby expressly declared, that in every such case, the Trustees or Trustee so withdrawing or excluded from being a Member or Members, and continuing out, of the said Methodist Society as aforesaid, shall not be required to execute any release, conveyance, or assurance, as last mentioned, unless and until the other Trustees or Trustee for the time being as aforesaid, or the major part of them, shall have tendered to the Trustees or Trustee so

withdrawing or excluded from being a Member or Members, and continuing out, of the said Methodist Society as aforesaid, a Bond, in a sufficient penalty, under the hands and seals of such other Trustees or Trustee, or the major part of them, for indemnifying the Trustees or Trustee so withdrawing or excluded from being a Member or Members, and continuing out, of the said Methodist Society as aforesaid, and every of them, their, and every of their heirs, executors, and administrators, of and from and against the payment of all and every sum and sums of money, costs, charges, and expenses, which he, they, or any of them, his, their, or any of their heirs, executors, or administrators, either separately or jointly, with any other Trustees or Trustee of the said trust-premises, may be bound, engaged, or liable to pay in respect of the said piece of ground, Chapel or place of Religious Worship, and premises, or in or about the due execution of the trusts of these presents; or in place of such bond or obligation, shall procure the Trustees or Trustee so withdrawing, or so excluded, from being a Member or Members, and continuing out, of the said Methodist Society, for the time aforesaid, to be effectually released and discharged of and from and against the payment of all such sum and sums of money, costs, charges, and expenses, as last aforesaid, and from all liability on account or in respect thereof, or in anywise relating thereto; And after the tender of such bond of indemnity or of such release as last aforesaid, all meetings held, and all acts, deeds, matters, and things done, performed, and executed by the other Trustees or Trustee for the time being of these presents, or a majority of them, shall be as valid and effectual to all intents and purposes whatsoever, as if the Trustee or Trustees so withdrawing, or excluded from being a Member or Members, and continuing out, of the said Methodist Society as aforesaid, had actually released and relinquished the trusts of these presents, and every of them, and had actually conveyed and assured the said trust-premises, as last aforesaid, anything in these presents contained to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding:

[42.]
Not to prevent his future
election, if in other re-
spects eligible.

PROVIDED ALWAYS, that nothing here-
inbefore contained shall be construed to
prevent or disqualify any person or persons
so withdrawing, or excluded as aforesaid,

from being at any future time, nominated, appointed, and chosen (if then duly qualified) to be a Trustee or Trustees of the said piece of ground, Chapel or place of Religious Worship, and premises, under or by virtue of the powers or authorities hereinafter contained, or either of them, for appointing new Trustees, or for increasing the number of the Trustees of these presents :

[43.]
Upon decease of any Trustee, the survivors, upon request, to indemnify his representatives.

PROVIDED ALWAYS, and it is hereby declared, that from time to time, and at all times hereafter, upon the decease of any Trustee or Trustees for the time being of these presents, the surviving Trustees and Trustee

for the time being of these presents shall and will, within six calendar months next after request for that purpose, in writing, made to them or him, by the legal representative or representatives of such deceased Trustee or Trustees, (but at the costs and charges in the law of such legal representative or representatives,) respectively execute a Bond, (in a sufficient penalty,) or other obligation to indemnify the legal representative or representatives of each and every deceased Trustee or Trustees, who shall make such request as aforesaid, his, her, and their lands, tenements, goods, and chattels, of, from, and against all bonds, debts, covenants, obligations, notes, judgments, claims and demands whatsoever, which such deceased Trustee or Trustees had entered into, or become subject or liable to, on account or in respect of, the said piece of ground, Chapel or place of Religious Worship, hereditaments and premises, or otherwise on account or in respect of the due execution of the trusts of these presents or any of them ; or, in place or stead of such bond or other obligation of indemnity, shall, and will, (at the choice and discretion of such surviving Trustees for the time being, upon such request, and at such costs and charges as last aforesaid,) cause or procure such legal representative or representatives as aforesaid, to be well and effectually released, or otherwise discharged, of, from, and against all and every such bonds, debts, covenants, notes, judgments, claims and demands, as last aforesaid, and of and from every of them, and every part and parcel thereof, respectively :

[44.]
Power to appoint new Trustees.

PROVIDED ALWAYS, and it is hereby declared, that from time to time, and at all times hereafter, when and so often as the

Trustees for the time being of these presents, shall by death, incapacity, or refusal to act in the trusts of these presents, or otherwise, be Reduced to the number of Five Trustees, then, and in every such case, the Superintendent Preacher for the time being of the Circuit in which the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship happens for the time being to be situate, shall, at a Meeting of the Trustees for the time being of these presents, and of such Superintendent Preacher, (such Meeting to be convened in manner as is hereinbefore mentioned and directed respecting Special Meetings,) nominate as many persons, being Members of the said Society of the people called Methodists, in the Circuit in which the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship shall for the time being be situate, (if a sufficient number of such persons can be there found willing to take upon themselves the burden and due execution of the trusts hereby declared, and if not, then being Members of the said Society in that and some neighbouring or other Circuits or Circuit,) as the said Superintendent for the time being shall deem to be suitable persons, being not fewer than twice the number of Trustees then to be chosen, elected, and appointed, (unless the old continuing Trustees shall be satisfied with his nominating a less number,) and the old Trustees for the time being, or the major part of them, present at such Meeting, shall thereupon choose, elect, and appoint from amongst the said persons nominated as aforesaid, so many persons to be Trustees of the said piece of ground, Chapel or place of Religious Worship, and premises, as shall, together with such of the old Trustees as shall continue in the trusts of these presents, make up in the whole the original number of Trustees; or, if none of the old Trustees shall continue in the trusts of these presents, then shall choose, elect, and appoint so many of the persons nominated as aforesaid, as shall be equal to the original number of Trustees; and the said piece of ground, Chapel or place of Religious Worship, hereditaments and premises, and every part and parcel thereof, with the appurtenances, (excepting only such part and parts thereof as shall have been sold and conveyed under, or by virtue of, the powers for sale in these presents contained or either of them,) shall thereupon forthwith be legally and effectually conveyed, and assured to and vested in, such new and such surviving and continuing Trustees jointly, or to and in such new Trustees

wholly, as the case may be, upon such and the same trusts, and to and for such and the same ends, intents, and purposes, and with, under, and subject to such and the same powers, provisoes, declarations, clauses, and agreements, as are in and by these presents expressed, declared, contained, or referred to, of and concerning the same piece of ground, Chapel or place of Religious Worship, hereditaments and premises, or such of them as shall be then subsisting, or capable of taking effect; and to, for, or upon no other use, trust, end, intent, or purpose whatsoever, anything herein contained to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding:

[45.] Trustees may be appointed, although above or reduced below the specified number. PROVIDED ALWAYS, and it is hereby declared, that from time to time, and at all times hereafter, although the Trustees for the time being of these presents shall not be reduced to the number of five, or if, (through accident, neglect, or otherwise, the appointment of new Trustees shall not be made upon their being reduced to that number, and) they shall be reduced to any less number than five, then, and in either of the said cases, it shall be lawful for the said Superintendent Preacher, and the then surviving Trustees or Trustee, or the major part of them present at any meeting convened in manner as is hereinbefore mentioned and directed respecting Special Meetings, to exercise and execute the power hereinbefore contained for the nomination, choice, and appointment of new Trustees, and for the then surviving Trustees and Trustee of these presents, to convey and assure the said trust-premises as last aforesaid, although the said surviving Trustees shall then either exceed, or shall be reduced to any number below, the said number of five:

[46.] Power to increase the number of Trustees. PROVIDED ALWAYS, and it is hereby declared, that if at any time or times hereafter, the Trustees, or a majority of them, for the time being of these presents, shall judge it necessary or expedient to increase the number of the Trustees of these presents, beyond the original number of Trustees, then, and in every such case, it shall be lawful for the said Superintendent Preacher for the time being to nominate, as aforesaid, and for the Trustees for the time being of these presents, or the major part of them, present at

such meeting convened as is hereinbefore mentioned and directed respecting Special Meetings to choose, elect, and appoint, in the same manner, as is hereinbefore mentioned and directed for the appointment and filling up of the original number of Trustees, any number of such proper persons as aforesaid, to be Trustees of the said piece of ground, Chapel or place of Religious Worship, and premises, but so as the Trustees so to be elected and appointed as last aforesaid, together with such of the surviving Trustees as shall continue in the trusts of these presents, shall not in the whole exceed the number of THIRTY persons; and the said piece of ground, Chapel or place of Religious Worship, hereditaments and premises, and every part and parcel thereof, with the appurtenances, (excepting only such part and parts thereof as shall have been sold and conveyed under or by virtue of the said powers of sale in these presents contained, or either of them,) shall thereupon forthwith be legally and effectually conveyed and assured to and vested in such continuing and new Trustees jointly, or to and in such new Trustees wholly, as the case may be, upon such and the same trusts, and to and for such and the same ends, intents, and purposes, and with, under, and subject to, such and the same powers, provisoes, declarations, clauses, and agreements, as are in these presents expressed, declared, contained, or referred to, concerning the same piece of ground, Chapel or place of Religious Worship, hereditaments and premises, or such of them as shall be then subsisting, or capable of taking effect; and to, for, or upon no other use, trust, end, intent, or purpose whatsoever, anything in these presents contained to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding:

[47.]
Power to bring actions,
and to refer disputes to
arbitration.

PROVIDED LASTLY, and it is hereby declared, that from time to time and at all times hereafter, it shall in all cases be lawful for the Trustees for the time being of these presents, in Special Meeting assembled as aforesaid, or the majority of them, to bring or defend any action or actions, suit or suits, respecting the said trust-estate and premises, in the names or name of the Trustees or Trustee for the time being of these presents; and also that, if any Difference, Disagreement, or Dispute shall at any time or times hereafter

happen to arise between the Trustees or Trustee for the time being acting in the trusts of these presents, and any other person or persons whomsoever, touching or relating to any boundary, right, privilege, light, way, drain, easement, or any other matter or thing whatsoever, belonging or relating, or appertaining, or supposed, believed, or claimed to belong, relate, or appertain, to the said piece of ground, Chapel or place of Religious Worship, hereditaments and premises, or to any part or parts thereof, and claimed or disputed by the party or parties in difference, disagreement, or dispute, then, and in every such case, it shall be lawful for, but not imperative upon, the Trustees for the time being of these presents, or a majority of them, in Special Meeting assembled as aforesaid, to refer every or any such matter, or Difference, Disagreement, or Dispute, to the arbitration and decision of two indifferent persons, one to be chosen by the said Trustees for the time being, or a majority of them, and the other by the other party or parties in difference or disagreement, and the award to be made by the said arbitrators, under their hands, or hands and seals, under such restrictions and conditions, as to time and other circumstances, as shall have been previously agreed upon in writing, by the said Trustees, for the time being, or a majority of them, and the other party or parties in difference or disagreement, or the award of their umpire to be appointed by the said arbitrators, (subject to such restrictions and conditions as aforesaid,) under his hand, or hand and seal, shall be binding and conclusive upon all parties, and the same may, if thought necessary or expedient, be made a rule of any of His Majesty's Courts of Record.

[48.]
Execution.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the said Parties to these presents have hereunto set their hands and seals, the day and year first above written.

[The Names of the Parties who Signed, Sealed, and Delivered the Deed are omitted.]

[49.]
Enrolment. 25th July
1832.

ENROLLED in His Majesty's High Court of Chancery, the 25th day of July, in the year of our Lord 1832, being first duly

stamp't according to the tenor of the Statutes made for that purpose. P.N.

D. DREW.

Certification of Copy.

THE above is a true copy of the Original
Deed, and was therewith examined by us.

MARK FREEMAN KERSHAW.
JOHN TREVOR HANKEY.

October Fifth, 1832.

APPENDIX VI

RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE ITINERANT METHODIST PREACHERS' ANNUITANT SOCIETY.

N.B. — *The Rules have been revised in accordance with Resolutions passed since 1864. The Annuitant Society is not a Connexional Institution.*

PREAMBLE.

CERTAIN Itinerant Preachers of the people called Methodists in the Connexion established by the late Reverend John Wesley, having agreed to form a Benefit Society to be known by the name of "The Itinerant Methodist Preachers' Annuitant Society," for the relief of Supernumerary and Superannuated Preachers among themselves, and of the Widows of those who had died, or should die, in connexion with the Conference of the above-named people; and the said Preachers having formed a set of Rules and Regulations for the above purpose, at their Annual Conference, held in Bristol in the year 1798;—and having altered some of those Rules and Regulations at their Annual Conference held in Leeds, in the year 1837, and also at certain of their Annual Meetings held at different places since that time;—and having agreed to revise, alter, and amend the Rules made aforesaid; Do, in this their Annual Meeting, held in Bradford, Yorkshire, in this present year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four, now make and adopt the following Rules and Regulations, in the place of the aforesaid Rules and Regulations; and therefore unanimously resolve,—

TITLE.

I. That this Institution shall continue to be called "THE ITINERANT METHODIST PREACHERS' ANNUITANT SOCIETY."¹

¹ This Institution is the same which is often called amongst the Methodists "THE PREACHERS' FUND."

WHO MAY BE MEMBERS.

II. Every Preacher who is now or who shall be hereafter received in connexion with the Conference of the People called Methodists may become a Member of the Society, if approved by a majority of the Members present at the Annual Meeting.

TERMS OF ADMISSION.

III. Every person who is received by the Conference as a Preacher on Trial, and who desires to be admitted as a Member of this Society, shall pay an Annual Subscription of Five Guineas, if engaged in the Home Work, and of Nine Guineas, if on a Foreign Station, for each of his four years of probation. If any such Probationer shall neglect to pay the Annual Subscription year by year, he shall pay interest at the rate of Five Pounds per cent. per annum on the amount due each successive year. If during any part of the period of his probation he should be discontinued by the Conference, or of his own accord withdraw from the Methodist Ministry ; or if, at the close of his probation, he should not be admitted into full connexion with the Conference, or should not be received into membership with this Society, the amount of Subscriptions paid by him shall be returned, without interest.

N.B.—At the Annual Meeting held in Nottingham, August 1876, it was unanimously resolved :—"That when application for admission into this Society has been deferred *five* years or more after Ordination, a Medical Certificate as to health shall be required."

SUBSCRIPTION.

IV. An Annual Subscription of Six Pounds shall be paid by each Member, if he be appointed by the Conference in the Home Work ; and an Annual Subscription of Ten Pounds Four Shillings, if he be appointed on a Foreign Station.

PROPERTY IN THE BOOK-ROOM.

V As the Methodist Preachers have a property in books in their Book-Room, City Road, London, bequeathed to them by

the Reverend John Wesley, which property has been considerably increased by the subscriptions of the Preachers and by other means; the said Preachers have agreed that the sum of not less than £2000 shall be paid annually by the Steward of the Book-Room, out of the profits thereof, to the Treasurers of this Society, to be applied according to the Rules and Regulations thereof, and such further sum as the Conference may direct.

ANNUITANTS.

VI. No Member of this Institution shall have any claim upon its funds as an Annuitant, or be considered as a Supernumerary or Superannuated Preacher, unless he be declared by the Methodist Conference incapable of fulfilling the duties of an Itinerant Preacher.

ANNUITIES.

VII. Every Member of this Society, who, being incapable of fulfilling the duties of an Itinerant Methodist Preacher, is considered and declared by the Conference as a Supernumerary or Superannuated Preacher, shall receive an annuity from this Institution according to the number of years he may have been a Member of the Society, commencing with the fifth year of his Ministry in the Wesleyan Methodist Connexion, and continuing to the sixtieth year and upwards of his Ministry, so that there shall be a proportionate increase of annuity for each and every year of Ministerial service in which the Annuitant may have been engaged up to the sixtieth year of his Ministry; and that these payments shall be made according to the following Graduated Scale. If a Member have travelled in the Wesleyan Methodist Ministry five years and shall then become a Supernumerary, he shall be entitled to receive an Annuity from the funds of this Society of £6, 1s. per year so long as he shall continue a Supernumerary; and a Member becoming a Supernumerary shall be entitled to Annuity as specified in the following Scale so long as he shall continue a Supernumerary. The payment shall be made in half-yearly instalments, one on the first day of August, and the other on the tenth day of February; and shall commence at

the time at which the said Member is declared by the Conference a Supernumerary, or incapable of performing the duties of an Itinerant Preacher as aforesaid.

GRADUATED SCALE.

(This Scale of Annuities was agreed to in 1864; being an increase of 10 per cent. on that adopted in London in 1860.)

Years of Travelling.	Graduated Scale of Annuities.	Years of Travelling.	Graduated Scale of Annuities.
5	£6 1 0	33	£24 15 0
6	6 6 6	34	25 17 0
7	6 12 0	35	26 19 0
8	7 3 0	36	28 1 0
9	7 14 0	37	29 3 0
10	8 5 0	38	30 5 0
11	8 16 0	39	31 7 0
12	9 7 0	40	32 9 0
13	9 18 0	41	33 11 0
14	10 9 0	42	34 13 0
15	11 0 0	43	35 15 0
16	11 11 0	44	36 17 0
17	12 2 0	45	37 19 0
18	12 13 0	46	39 1 0
19	13 15 0	47	40 3 0
20	14 17 0	48	41 16 0
21	15 8 0	49	43 9 0
22	16 10 0	50	45 2 0
23	17 1 0	51	46 15 0
24	17 12 0	52	48 5 0
25	18 14 0	53	49 15 0
26	19 5 0	54	51 5 0
27	20 7 0	55	52 15 0
28	20 18 0	56	54 5 0
29	21 9 0	57	55 15 0
30	22 0 0	58	57 5 0
31	22 11 0	59	58 15 0
32	23 13 0	60	60 5 0

WIDOWS.

VIII. On the decease of a Member leaving a Widow, who has been entered on the Books of the Society according to the terms hereafter specified, his Widow shall receive an Annuity according to the number of years that the Husband had been a Member of the Society—or, if he were a Supernumerary at the time of his decease, according to the number of years that he had travelled in the Wesleyan Methodist Ministry—as stated in the above Scale, subject to a reduction of one-eighth of the amount in each case. And this Annuity, so reduced, shall be paid as long as such Widow continues unmarried, but shall cease immediately upon her re-marriage.

FULL AND COMPLETE YEARS FOR WIDOWS ONLY.

IX. If any Member of this Society shall have entered upon his annual appointment in a Circuit in any given year, that year shall be accounted to his Widow as a full and complete year in settling the scale or rate of Annuity applicable to her case; provided that the Subscription of the deceased Member be paid for that year.

SUPERNUMERARY MARRYING.

X. No woman who shall have married a Member of this Society after he has become a Supernumerary, or has been declared by the Conference incapable of performing the duties of an Itinerant Preacher, shall, after his decease, receive any benefit from this Institution, unless she had previously been an Annuitant, in which case her former Annuity shall revive.

N.B.—When Parents, who were Members of the Society but not Annuitants, decease, leaving necessitous Orphan Children, every such case shall be considered by the Managing Officers, and shall be determined upon its own merits. If thought equitable, a surrender value according to the advice of an Actuary shall be paid to the representatives of the family, or such guardian as the Officers deem to be suitable.

MARRIAGE PREMIUMS. FIRST MARRIAGE.

XI. On the First Marriage of any Member, he shall pay, within three Kalendar months from his marriage, a premium of Five Guineas, and an additional sum of One Guinea for every year his Wife may be younger than himself, provided the disparity of age be not more than ten years, in order to entitle her to an Annuity on the death of her Husband according to the preceding Graduated Scale; but should she be ten years younger, and under fifteen years younger, than her Husband, he shall pay the marriage premium of Five Guineas, and an additional Guinea for each year she may be younger than himself; and in the event of his death, if his Wife survive him, she shall be entitled to receive one-half of the Annuity payable to Widows of her deceased Husband's standing. Should the Wife be fifteen years younger than her Husband, she shall not be entitled, on her becoming a Widow, to any Annuity from the funds of the Society.

SECOND AND THIRD MARRIAGES.

XII. On the Second Marriage of a Member, the marriage premium shall be Twenty Guineas, and on the Third Marriage, the marriage premium shall be Thirty Guineas, and in each case an additional sum of One Guinea for every year his Wife may be younger than himself, provided the disparity of age be not more than ten years, in order to entitle her to an Annuity on the death of her Husband according to the preceding Graduated Scale; but should she be ten years younger, and under fifteen years younger, than her Husband, he shall pay the marriage premium, for the Second Marriage of Twenty Guineas, and for the Third Marriage of Thirty Guineas, and in each case an additional Guinea for each year of disparity of age; and in the event of his death, if his Wife survive him, she shall be entitled to receive one-half the Annuity payable to Widows of her deceased Husband's standing. Should the Wife be fifteen years younger than her Husband, she shall not be entitled, on her becoming a Widow, to any Annuity from the funds of the Society.

N.B.—The foregoing Regulations concerning marriages are not intended to bear upon marriages contracted previously to August 1858, nor upon any marriage with a Widow Annuitant.

At the Annual Meeting held in Nottingham in July 1891, it was resolved:—

That in place of the Premium now charged, for FULL Annuities in ALL cases according to Scale, the Marriage Premium shall be:—

For First Marriage, Five Guineas, and an additional sum of One Guinea for every year the Wife is younger than her Husband up to twenty years.

For Second Marriage, Ten Guineas, and for Third Marriage, Fifteen Guineas, with the following additional sums for every year the Wife is younger than her Husband, provided the disparity in age is not more than twenty years:—

Member's Age.	Additional Premium for every year Wife is younger than Member.
Up to 35, inclusive . . .	2½ Guineas.
36 to 40, inclusive . . .	3 Guineas.
41 to 50, inclusive . . .	4 Guineas.
51 to 60, inclusive . . .	5 Guineas.

No Member after attaining the age of sixty to be eligible to enter his Wife's name on the Books of the Society for an Annuity. A medical certificate of Member's good health must be produced if marriage premiums be not paid within twelve months after marriage, and simple interest at the rate of five per cent. must be paid for the time the premiums have been unpaid.

At the Annual Meeting held in Liverpool on July 29, 1881, it was unanimously resolved:—

“That in the future all Marriage Premiums, whether of Ministers in the Home or Foreign Work, not paid within twelve months after the Marriage, shall be charged with simple interest on the amount due.”

FORM OF MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE.

This is to Certify, that the Sum of
Guineas has been paid by the Rev.
to the Treasurers of the ITINERANT METHODIST PREACHERS'
ANNUITANT SOCIETY, for the registration of the name of
his Wife, she not being
Years younger than himself, in order
to secure her a full or half reversionary interest in the Funds of
the said Society, according to the rules and usages thereof.

As WITNESS my hand this day of
18 .

A. B.,
Steward.

N.B.—This Certificate is to be presented when the Annuity is claimed.

WIDOW NOT ENTITLED TO ANNUITY UNLESS MARRIAGE
PREMIUM HAS BEEN PAID.

XIII. In the event of the death of a Member not having paid the marriage premium, his Widow shall not be entitled to any Annuity from the funds of the Society.

SUPERNUMERARY ENTERING INTO BUSINESS.

XIV. In case of any Supernumerary becoming a claimant on the funds of this Society who is able to go into business, or should any Widow claimant actually enter into business, the Officers are authorised and required, for the mutual benefit of both parties, to endeavour to make arrangements for the relinquishment of all future claims on the part of such Supernumerary or Widow, by the payment of one sum.

EXCLUSION.

XV. If any Member of this Society be expelled from connexion with the Conference by a vote of that Body, the Officers

shall return to the Member so expelled the full amount of the Subscriptions which he has paid into the fund, without interest, deducting, however, any amount which he had at any period received as a Supernumerary. In the case of any Member voluntarily retiring from the Wesleyan Methodist Ministry, *three-fourths* of the amount he has paid into the Fund, exclusive of extra premiums paid whilst serving on Foreign Stations, and of interest or fines paid, shall be returned without interest, on application for such return.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND MARRIAGE PREMIUMS, WHEN DUE.

XVI. The Annual Subscriptions of Members shall be considered as due on the first day of August in every year, and must be paid within ten days from that period. The premiums on First Marriages, including the payments due on account of disparity of age, must be paid within three months of the marriage. The premiums on Second and Third Marriages, including the payments due on account of disparity of age, must be paid, one-half at least within three months of the marriage, and, in cases where it is desired, the other half, with interest at five per cent., within one year of the marriage.

NEGLECT OF PAYMENT.

XVII. Any Member neglecting to send his Annual Subscription at the time above mentioned, shall be fined ten shillings each year of non-payment; the fines to be added to the common stock; but if his Subscription shall be three years in arrear, he shall be excluded from the Society, and forfeit all the money he has paid into the Fund, unless such person have been employed by the Conference on any of the Foreign Missions; in which case the matter shall be determined by a majority of the Members present at the Annual Meeting.

SUSPENDING AND RESUMING CLAIMS.

XVIII. If a Preacher who has been a Supernumerary and in consequence has become a claimant on the funds of the Society, according to the Seventh Rule, be again appointed by

the Conference as a regular Itinerant Preacher, he shall cease to be an Annuitant ; but if he be again declared Supernumerary and incapable of fulfilling the duties of an Itinerant Preacher, his claim for his Annuity shall be regulated according to the years he has actually travelled, subject to the provisions and regulations already mentioned.

ANNUITANTS EMIGRATING.

XIX. Any Annuitant of this Society emigrating to a foreign country shall only receive the Annuity due, on condition that a certificate of his or her being still alive, and of continued right to the Annuity according to all the Rules above mentioned, be sent to the Steward half-yearly, dated the tenth day of February and the tenth day of August respectively, signed by the Superintendent of the Circuit in which such Annuitant may reside ; or, in the case of there being no Methodist Society in the place, by some Minister or Magistrate ; and the Annuity shall not be paid until such certificate is received.

ARREARS OF ANNUITY.

XX. If any Annuitant shall decline receiving his or her Annuity for any number of years, he or she shall not by so doing forfeit all claim to the Annuity in future ; but such Member may again demand payment of the Annuity ; nevertheless he or she shall not be entitled to any arrears for the year or years voluntarily relinquished.

MANAGEMENT.

XXI. Everything relative to the management of the Society shall be done by a majority of the Members present at the Annual Meeting.

MANAGING OFFICERS.

XXII. Four Treasurers, with a Steward, a Secretary, and three Auditors, shall be appointed. The moneys belonging to this Institution shall be invested in the names of the Treasurers. The Steward and the Secretary shall receive the Annual

Subscriptions, and pay the Annuities ; they shall also keep the Accounts and Records of the Institution. The Auditors (who shall be appointed annually) shall audit all the Accounts of the Society before they are presented to the Annual Meeting. The President of the Conference shall, *ex officio*, be the Chairman of the Officers' Meeting.

N.B.—A Chartered Accountant is associated with the appointed Auditors.

DIFFICULTIES AND DISPUTES.

XXIII. Should any dispute arise relative to the business of the Society which cannot be settled by the Officers of the Society, it shall be referred to a Committee, to be appointed at the Annual Meeting ; and the judgment of the majority of the Committee shall be decisive, unless appealed against at the next Annual Meeting, provided the said judgment be not contrary to anything in the existing Rules of the Society.

BOOKS.

XXIV. The Books of the Society shall be open for the inspection of any Member at all convenient times.

ACCOUNTS.

XXV. The Accounts of the Society shall be publicly read over and examined at the Annual Meeting of the Society.

CONTINUANCE OF RATE OF SUBSCRIPTIONS AND ANNUITIES.

XXVI. In accordance with the Resolutions passed at the Annual Meeting of the Society held in Bradford, Yorkshire, in August 1864, the rate of Subscription and Scale of Annuities herein stated shall be continued for a period of five years at least.

DISSOLVING THE SOCIETY.

XXVII. Provided that if at any time this Society shall be so diminished as not to be able to answer all the purposes now

intended by these Rules and Regulations, yet it shall not be lawful for the Members, by any Rule, Order, or Regulation, at any General Meeting or otherwise, to dissolve or determine the Society, so long as the intents and purposes declared by the Society, or any of them, remain to be carried into effect, without the consent and approbation of five-sixths of the then existing Members, to be testified under their hands individually and respectively.

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APPENDIX

APPENDIX

(INCLUDING THE LEGISLATION OF THE CONFERENCE OF 1899)

THE Constitution and Polity of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, published last year, is now sold out, and another issue is required. The first edition included the legislation down to the Conference of 1898; and in issuing a second edition the legislation of the Conference of 1899 is included as an Appendix. Anyone possessing the first edition can be supplied with a copy of this Appendix by sending two penny stamps to the Wesleyan Methodist Book-Room, 2 Castle Street, City Road, London, E.C.

LEGISLATION OF THE CONFERENCE 1899.

LAW OF APPEAL.

The Conference receives and adopts the Report of the Committee, and directs that it be printed in the *Minutes*.—*Minutes*, 1899, p. 240. Appendix XIII., pp. 485-511.

1. The right of Members of the Church, when excluded from Membership, to demand a trial at a Leaders' Meeting, and to appeal to District Synods and the Conference.—*Minutes*, 1899, pp. 485-498.

2. The right of officers of the Church, when removed from office by disciplinary action, to appeal to District Synods and the Conference.—*Minutes*, 1899, pp. 498-507.

3. The right of Local Preachers, when deprived of their office, to appeal from the decisions of a Local Circuit Court to District Synods and the Conference.—*Minutes*, 1899, pp. 507-511.

See *Constitution and Polity*, pp. 26-29.

CONSTITUTION OF THE CONFERENCE AND NOMINATION OF THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY UNDER THE RECENT ORDER OF SESSIONS.

Order of Conference Sessions.—1. The Conference receives and adopts the Report of the Committee.

2. In view of the decision that the Representative Session of the Conference shall in future precede the Pastoral Session (*Minutes*, 1898, p. 252), the Conference *provisionally* adopts the following Resolutions:—

(1) *Method of Filling up Vacancies in the Legal Conference.*

—(i.) All vacancies in the Legal Conference caused by *death or absence for two successive years without a dispensation*, shall be declared at the first meeting of the Conference in its Representative Session, and such vacancies shall be filled up by election by the Legal Conference on the ground of *seniority*.

(ii.) The declaration of vacancies caused by *superannuation* shall be deferred until the meeting of the Conference in its Pastoral Session, and such vacancies shall then be filled up by election by the Legal Conference on the ground of *nomination*.

(2) *Method of Nominating the President and Secretary of the Conference.*—The nomination of the President and Secretary shall be made by ballot vote, by the Pastoral Session of the preceding Conference.

N.B.—All Ministers in Full Connexion permitted to attend the Conference in its Pastoral Session shall have the right to vote in the nomination of Ministers for election into the Legal Conference, and also of the President and Secretary of the ensuing Conference.

(3) *Method of Electing the President and Secretary of the Conference.*—(i.) The number of one hundred Members of the Legal Conference having been completed by the filling up of vacancies caused by death or absence for two successive years without a dispensation, the Legal Conference shall proceed to choose its President and Secretary. (ii.) The Legal Conference

shall be requested to elect the persons nominated to the office of President and Secretary by the Pastoral Session of the preceding Conference.

(4) *Provision in case of the Death or Disqualification of a Minister nominated for the office of President in the interval between the close of the Pastoral Session and the Meeting of the ensuing Conference.*—The death or disqualification of the Minister nominated to the office of President having been declared by the Legal Conference at its first meeting, the Ministers who are Members of the Conference in its Representative Session shall proceed by ballot vote to nominate another Minister to the office of President in the place of the Minister deceased or disqualified, and the Legal Conference shall be requested to elect the Minister so nominated.

(5) *Provision in case of the Death or Disqualification of the Minister nominated to the office of Secretary in the interval between the close of the Pastoral Session and the Meeting of the ensuing Conference.*—(i.) The death or disqualification of the Minister nominated to the office of Secretary having been declared by the Legal Conference at its first meeting, the Ministers who are Members of the Conference in its Representative Session shall proceed by ballot vote to nominate another Minister to the office of Secretary in the place of the Minister deceased or disqualified, and the Legal Conference shall be requested to elect the Minister so nominated. (ii.) If, in the event of the death or disqualification of the Minister nominated to the office of the President, the Minister nominated by the Pastoral Session of the preceding Conference to the office of Secretary should be chosen to be President of the Conference, the Ministers who are Members of the Representative Session shall nominate another Minister by ballot vote to the office of Secretary of the Conference, and the Legal Conference shall be requested to elect the Minister so nominated.

N.B.—Assistant Secretaries shall be appointed, as heretofore, by the Pastoral Session of the Conference, and shall continue

in office until the meeting of the Pastoral Session of the ensuing Conference. But should any vacancy arise through any cause, it shall be filled up at the first meeting of the Conference by the Ministers who are Members of the Representative Session.—*Minutes*, 1899, pp. 241–243.

See *Constitution and Polity*, pp. 40, 41.

CANDIDATES' SPECIAL EXAMINATION COMMITTEE.

Each manuscript sermon shall be read by two of the Ministers so appointed, and a meeting of the Sub-Committee thereafter held, when the reports of the readers shall be considered, and the valuation fixed, which shall be recommended to the Committee.—*Minutes*, 1899, p. 229.

See *Constitution and Polity*, p. 82.

MINISTERS FROM OTHER CONFERENCES AND CHURCHES.

That a Committee be annually appointed to receive and consider all applications from Ministers of other Conferences and Churches to enter the Wesleyan Methodist Ministry, with full power to send for, hear, examine, and otherwise satisfy itself concerning the doctrinal belief, preaching ability, financial position, and other qualifications of such applicants.—*Journal*, 1899.

See *Constitution and Polity*, p. 87.

ACCEPTED CANDIDATES AND THE THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTION.

Students.—

1. Accepted Candidates shall be sent forthwith to the Institution, unless the Conference otherwise directs.

2. The term of residence in the Institution shall be, except in special cases, three years.

3. Every Student who has completed his term of *three* years in the Theological Institution, and is duly certified by the Local and General Discipline Committees, shall be regarded as commencing his probation at the Conference next ensuing.

4. If he receive an appointment at the Conference, or be sent by the President as a Supply before Christmas, the year shall count as the first of his probation, and he shall be entitled, after being received into Full Connexion, to the usual allowances of a Minister in Full Connexion.

5. But if he be not so appointed by the Conference, or sent out by the President as a Supply before Christmas, or if he shall be specially recommended to return to the Institution for a fourth year's course of study, he shall, in the year immediately after he has been received into Full Connexion, be entitled only to the allowances of an unmarried Minister. This Resolution does not carry any disability with regard to any other Funds than the Home Mission and Contingent Fund.

6. In the case of Students who have not completed their term at the Institution (whether in their first, second, or third year of residence), but are called out by the President to Supply before Christmas, the year shall, in accordance with our ancient usage, be reckoned as the first of their probation.

7. Candidates for the Ministry who have obtained a degree in any University of the United Kingdom, or have passed any equivalent Examination,—*e.g.* the Final Examination of the Incorporated Law Society, or of the Royal College of Surgeons,—shall not of necessity spend the full term of three years in the Theological Institution; but, on the recommendation of their Tutors and Local and General Discipline Committees, the term of their residence may be shortened. And, in such cases, their probation shall commence at the Conference next ensuing, but subject to the Regulations in regard to the probation of Students who have completed their term of three years. See above, sec. 3.

8. When it is decided by the Local and General Discipline Committees that, on the ground of unsatisfactory progress, or for reasons of discipline, the full period of three years' training at the Institution should, in the case of any Student, be shortened, the ministerial probation of such Student shall not be reckoned

as beginning until the Conference at which he would have completed his three years' training.

9. Before calling out any Student to Supply, the President shall consult with the Staff of the College in which the Student resides.

10. The representative of each branch of the Institution to the Stationing Committee shall advise as to the appointment to Circuits of Students who have completed their term in the College he represents, and especially as to the appointment of any Student of the first or second year, should it be found necessary to make such an appointment. — *Minutes*, 1899, pp. 361-363.

See *Constitution and Polity*, pp. 89 and 93.

RE-APPOINTMENT OF SUPERNUMERARIES IN SPECIAL CASES.

The regulation of the Conference on this subject (*Minutes*, 1892, p. 218) is amended to read as follows : In the case of any Minister who has been made a Supernumerary on the ground of either—(1) discipline, or (2) difficulty in finding him a Circuit, no District Synod shall recommend his reappointment, unless some Circuit in that District is willing to receive him, or he shall have received an invitation to a Circuit in another District ; and no such Minister shall be reappointed to a Circuit unless recommended by the District Synod to which he belongs. — *Minutes*, 1899, p. 246.

See *Constitution and Polity*, pp. 62 and 135.

SPECIAL LOCAL PREACHERS' MEETING.

The Resolutions *provisionally* adopted by the Conference of 1898 (*Minutes*, 1898, p. 250, sec. 5), and sent to the District Synods for consideration, were confirmed. — *Minutes*, 1899, p. 238.

See *Constitution and Polity*, pp. 224, 225.

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